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## Bourse stages dramatic turnaround

Two-Sided Index rises after early drop

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and NEIL COHEN

THE stock market staged a dramatic turnaround yesterday, recovering in the afternoon to close in positive territory after sharp falls in the morning.

The Two-Sided Index of leading shares went up 0.73 percent to 173.56 points, while the narrow Maof Index ended the day down 0.65% to 174.85 points.

However, the Karam Index of smaller shares lost 6.19% to 167.07. About 250 issues were listed on the exchange.

The market opened gloomily, as several large stocks registered sharp falls and the main market slipped in their wake.

The Karam shares registered a sharp drop of about 240 million, while the Maof session opened with an excess supply of some NIS 180m., reflecting massive dumping of securities by the general public and the mutual funds.

Mutual fund redemptions reportedly reached NIS 0.5 billion.

About one hour after the start of trading, the Two-Sided Index plunged 4.09%, while the Maof Index sank 4.94% to below 160 points, the level from almost two years ago.

Toward the end of the day, the Maof shares increased in reaction to a provision fund buying, while most of the Karam shares continued to fall due to excess supply.

Turnover was high at NIS 336m.

One of the surprising developments yesterday was the dramatic change in the value of securities between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

La Nationale, which was down 9.5% in the morning Meretz session, gained 10% in the afternoon. Similarly, Meir Ezer moved from a drop of 10% to a 7% gain and (Continued on Page 2)



Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum, the Satmar rebbe, is greeted by his followers upon his arrival in Israel yesterday for his first visit in 11 years.

## Thousands greet Satmar Rebbe at start of two-week visit

HERB KEINON

SATMAR Rebbe Moshe Teitelbaum, a fervent anti-Zionist, rode into haredi Jerusalem like a conquering hero yesterday, as he began his first visit here in 11 years.

An estimated 100,000 people jammed the streets leading to Mea She'arim's Shabbat Square, singing and chanting "Long live our master, teacher and rabbi, righteous man of our generation." As his black limousine drove past.

At Shabbat Square, which became a nightmare for claustrophobes, Teitelbaum delivered a 15-minute speech in Yiddish in which he attacked Zionism and the state. "The state wants to take Torah away from the people," he said, urging his followers to stand firm against participating in the life of the state. "You should know that there are people outside willing to help you."

In addition to leading Satmar, Teitelbaum is also the president of the Eda Haredit, a loose umbrella organization for all those who neither vote in the Knesset nor take money from the state. He reportedly has come here with five million dollars to give to Eda Haredit institutions.

The New York-based rebbe was greeted on Rehov Sarei Yisrael in Jerusalem by thousands of

children in their Shabbat finery, wearing special sashes across their chests. They stood obediently in rows, held a rope which prevented them from getting lost, and waved special cardboard flags of greeting as the rebbe drove by. Among the children were a few Yemenite immigrants, in their traditional clothes, who study in Satmar institutions here.

Policemen on horseback, who not too long ago were called Nazis by Satmar protesters demonstrating against alleged grave desecration in the capital, cleared a path through the dense crowd so the rebbe's car could pass.

Loudspeakers set up along Sarei Yisrael, Malchei Yisrael, and Mea She'arim streets blasted out hissed tunes.

The rickety-looking balconies along the rebbe's route were packed with people, as were the rooftops. At one point, the master of ceremonies warned people on top of bus shelters that the shelters may collapse. Women stood behind a roped off area on sidewalks along the route.

The octogenarian rebbe landed at Ben-Gurion Airport at 1 p.m., and was whisked away by limousine to rest a few hours in Savoyon, at the home of Meir David Brud-

man, head of the religious council there.

About 50 leading rabbis of the Eda Haredit, along with some 30 journalists, were on hand at the airport to greet the rebbe and the some 2,000 followers who traveled with him from the US.

Once he stepped on the stairway from his plane, the Eda Haredit rabbis rushed him. Some kissed his hand. As a result of the confusion, the rebbe was forced to stand in the sun for some 15 minutes. He was finally able to get into the car thanks to the intervention of the police.

One Satmar Hassid, who would not identify himself, was busy taking pictures from the minute he stepped off the plane. "I'm happy to be here," he said. "This is my first time in Israel."

When asked how this happiness fits in with the Satmar's anti-Zionist ideology, he said, "I don't like that political —"

Another Hassid, also a first time visitor to Israel, said "I am not happy to be here. There are many bad things here. I am just happy to be with the rebbe, and to be with the community."

A steward on the Tower Air flight that brought the rebbe and hundreds of his followers, called the flight "a happening."

Hershel Friedman, who identified himself as the spokesman for Satmar in New York, said the purpose of the trip is to encourage the Eda Haredit to stand by their beliefs and continue to refuse state money and services.

Hertz Frankel, who also described himself as the spokesman for Satmar in New York, said that Satmar's position regarding the Palestinians is simply that "life comes before land, and Israel should 'compromise' if it would mean that lives would be saved."

When asked if that means that he wants all Israel to come under PLO or Arab control, he said "We don't make those calculations. The land is not the priority. Torah and mitzvot are the priorities."

Another Hassid said he does not hate the state. But, he added, it would be better if Israel would be ruled by non-Jews. "We would suffer less that way," he said.

"Fewer Jews would be killed. Who is to say that if you gave the Arabs here the honor they want, they would not rule us benevolently?"

The man, repeating Satmar's belief that a Jewish state should come only after the coming of the Messiah, said he would be pleased if the country was ruled by the UN or "Uncle Sam." "Look," he said, "we have it quite well in America."

## Knesset panel likely to refuse Clalit loan

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset finance committee seems set to refuse to approve a NIS 400 million loan to Kupat Holim Clalit today, unless the government can twist the arms of some of the recalcitrant Labor MKs on the committee.

The vote was postponed until this morning after Labor MKs could not resolve their differences over the proposal. Some favored approving the loan, because Kupat Holim needs immediate assistance, but others said NIS 400m. was too little to be worthwhile.

"NIS 400m. isn't enough, so there's no point," said committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor). According to both the Treasury and Kupat Holim Director-General Avigdor Kaplan, NIS 400m. will suffice only through the end of the month, or July 5 at the latest. Thus, to tide the fund over until August 5 — as Histadrut secretary-general designate Haim Ramon has requested — would require NIS 800m., Gal noted.

"That isn't the [government's] request," he said. "I doubt whether the cabinet would approve such a request, and I doubt whether the finance committee would okay it. I think this will lead to a receiver, and if so, the sooner the better."

He said he had asked if Ramon would be willing to work out a full-fledged recovery plan by June 20, if incumbent secretary-general Haim Haberfeld would authorize him to do so, but Ramon refuses to act until he takes office on July 1.

Eli Goldschmidt and Avi Yehzekel (Labor) also supported putting the ball back in the cabinet's court, on the grounds that NIS 400m. was not enough. Yehzekel said at least NIS 900m. was needed.

Ramon also supports returning the proposal to the government, saying that with only NIS 400m., he will be out of money as soon as he takes office on July 1. In the meantime, he said, the fund will continue to lose members, refuse to perform elective surgery, and in other ways give defective care.

"It's impossible to do anything serious like this," he said. "The

government's decision is a bad joke. I'll meet all the Histadrut's obligations [to Kupat Holim], even if I have to sell all its assets. But give me a health fund capable of functioning until August 5 — however much money it takes."

However, Haim Oron (Meretz), one of Ramon's coalition partners in the Histadrut, rejected this argument.

"There's a legal impediment to increasing the loan beyond NIS 400m.," he said, explaining that anything more than this sum, which represents the Histadrut's debt to Kupat Holim, would constitute unfair discrimination against the other health funds.

"[Returning the request to the government] won't help."

Kupat Holim's Kaplan also advocated approving the loan, even though he said it entailed legal problems. "It's a very short-term solution, but it will give us a breathing space to find a long-term solution," he said.

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## Peres defends gov't over Jerusalem letter

DAN IZENBERG

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres yesterday defended the government's claim that it had published all documents relating to the agreements with the PLO and said the dispute over an unpublished letter on the status of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem was a "matter of interpretation."

Earlier, Likud MK Dan Meridor called on the government to resign for allegedly lying to the nation about the existence of a letter addressed to the late Norwegian foreign minister Johan Jorgen Holst, promising that all existing Palestinian institutions in the capital would remain.

Likud MK Benny Begin contin-

ued the controversy yesterday, accusing Peres of deleting a paragraph in the version of the letter published. Begin claimed there was no connection between the paragraphs in the letter.

Peres rejected Begin's accusations, saying the letter had been published in its entirety as it had been sent to Holst.

"I am very sorry that all sorts of political developments are getting mixed up here," said Peres during a speech in the Knesset constantly interrupted by heckling. "The [opposition] calls everything a document. We conducted negotia-

tions. And during negotiations, there is an exchange of notes, documents and things. There is no question here about [the government's] credibility. There is an argument over interpretation."

Peres said the letter had been sent long before the signing of the Cairo Agreement and that the undertakings it contained had been included in a speech he had made to the Knesset the previous month.

Peres repeated several times that the government had not lied about having published all the documents related to the agree-

ment because "a letter is not a document."

The government was falsely trying to play down the importance of the letter, charged Meridor. "How do I know it is not insignificant? Because you hid the letter. If it had contained nothing, you would have told the nation about it."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid described the controversy surrounding the letter as much ado about nothing. Sarid said that if the letter had been made public at the time the matter would long since have been forgotten.

David Rudge contributed to this report

## Jordan, Israel agree to hold development talks locally

Rubinstein: This is the essence of peace

HILLEL KUTTLER and JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL and Jordan broke new ground in the peace process yesterday, agreeing to hold future economic development talks in the two countries.

This marks the first time in the two-and-a-half-year peace process that Israel and a front line state are to meet in each other's lands.

"We see this as something very positive," said chief negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein. "The fact Israelis will be in Jordan, and Jordanians in Israel, brings home the reality of life from one side to the other and is the essence of peace."

The first meeting is to be held in July, but no site has been selected.

In two days of meetings at the State Department, the sides agreed to present detailed plans for future economic cooperation at the July meeting.

A US Army Corps of Engineers team is to visit the region next month to investigate one of the talks' primary goals — building a road linking Jordan to Egypt through Israel, otherwise known as the "Camp David Road."

US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross, who participated in the meetings, called the developments evidence of "a pragmatic, down-to-earth approach in the negotiations."

Under the agreement, the Palestinians may import 150,000 tons of cement, 24,000 tons of iron rods, 6,000 tons of fertilizer, 5,000 tons of edible oil, 3,000 dishwashers or laundry machines, 2,000 heating stoves, 2,000 electric ovens, 3,000 televisions, 1,000 air conditioners and 1,000 refrigerators annually from Jordan or Egypt, duty-free.

In addition, the Jordanians may export a limited list of items, including gasoline, on which they must pay duties.

Israel expressed its readiness to expand Jordanian trade in the framework of the economic agreement with the Palestinians, since all the import quotas are only starting points which can be reviewed by the Palestinian-Israeli Joint Economic Committee.

However, it is unlikely that much progress will be made under that framework, as the decisions will require the approval of both the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Palestinians may well not want to open up to the Jordanians who will be their most immediate competitors, as their economies will be very much alike, a source said.

The Jordanians showed the Israeli team their economic agreement with the Palestinians, which is still unsigned, and which gives Jordan a dominant role in the autonomous areas' monetary and banking affairs.

The sides also agreed to include the Palestinians in a trilateral forum on trade, banking, and finance.

David Makovsky adds:

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told television interviewers yesterday he would be returning very soon to the Middle East — some say next week or the week after — to revive Israeli-Syrian peace prospects.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials say Washington has recently had contact with Damascus to discuss practical steps to move the peace process forward as a prerequisite to Christopher's return.

At the trilateral meeting in Washington, sponsored by the

US, Israel reviewed the economic agreement with the Palestinians for the Jordanians. According to a source, the Jordanians were a bit surprised by the limited access the agreement provides them to the Palestinian market.

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## Officials peeved over Egypt's 'extremist' stand

DAVID MAKOVSKY

OFFICIALS in Jerusalem are so angry that Egypt is supporting "extremist" diplomatic positions on the peace process that some in the Foreign Ministry support "re-evaluating" Cairo's special role in the peace process, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

"Jerusalem will demand clarification about Cairo's recent behavior," an informed diplomatic source said. "Egypt cannot have it both ways, namely sounding moderate in private talks with us, but then lining up against us supporting extremist Arab positions in different international forums," the source said angrily.

"There are those in the Foreign Ministry who now want a reevaluation of Egypt's peace process role," he added.

Foreign Ministry officials were incensed by resolutions adopted in Cairo over the weekend at a meeting of foreign ministers attended

by delegates from the 110-member Non-Aligned Movement.

At that conference, a 66-page document was passed including resolutions on the shape of Israeli-Palestinian final status issues, these sources say. The document backed the Palestinian right of return, citing UN Resolution 194 of 1949. Furthermore, it said Jerusalem should be the capital of a Palestinian state, according to the sources.

The foreign ministers also called on the UN Security Council to act to halt Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon.

"The non-aligned meeting is just the latest example," these sources said, noting how Cairo consistently rails against Israel's reputed nuclear capability as a tactical device to block any progress in several rounds of Middle East multilateral negotiations on arms control.

## The Politics of Feeling

Rabbi Dr. J. Immanuel Schochet  
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## Zucker opposes Religious MKs back abortion pill

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset law committee was full of surprises yesterday, when hardline religious MKs expressed support for a revolutionary abortion pill, while chairman Dani Zucker of Meretz opposed a move to legislate its use.

Zucker warned that the bill, initiated by Yael Dayan (Labor), would provide the hardline and religious MKs with an opportunity to reopen the abortion question and impose new restrictions. "They will set an ambush for us," Zucker warned, adding that he would not rush the bill through committee.

The pill, known as RU-486, currently available in France, Britain and Switzerland, undoes the work of a natural hormone protecting the fetus, and causes the womb to contract, thus expelling the fetus from the body.

Gynecologists and other medical experts attending the committee meeting testified that the pill was much safer than conventional abortion surgery and constituted a giant step forward. They enthusiastically supported Dayan's bill.

Zucker pointed out that it was unnecessary to legislate the use of the pill. According to existing procedures, the Health Ministry has the right to approve its use, as it does regarding any new medicine. Once the pill is approved, doctors serving on abortion committees are fully entitled to recommend it to patients.

Dayan said she wanted the legislation to offset possible religious pressure against its use. She pointed out that the Roman Catholic Church has prevented distribution of the pill in Spain and Italy. Even if the Health Ministry authorized it, the abortion committees might "under religious pressure" refrain from informing women of the option.

Dayan's fears turned out to be at least partly unfounded. The three hardline religious MKs on the committee — Avraham Ravitz (UT), Yosef Azran (Shas) and Yitzhak Levy (NRP) — expressed their support for the pill. However, while Levy and Azran oppose legislation altogether, Ravitz appeared to substantiate Zucker's concerns by arguing that the bill required strict constraints. "Because of the easy accessibility of this pill, we will have to make tough restrictions on its use to prevent matters from getting out of control," he told the committee.

**Beersheba parents protest 'neglect' of religious schools**

AMIR ROZENBLIT

HUNDREDS of pupils from religious elementary schools in Beersheba demonstrated yesterday against what they termed Education Ministry discrimination against religious education in the city.

The demonstration was held opposite a local youth hostel, where Education Ministry Director-General Shimon Shoshani was visiting.

Haim Rosenthal, chairman of the religious education parents committee in Beersheba, said the local religious schools in the city have long been discriminated against and neglected. No new schools or kindergartens have been opened in the city in recent years, forcing parents to either accept what there is or leave Beersheba, he said.

Rosenthal added that the religious education system in the town had taken on 40 percent of the Ethiopian-immigrant pupils, a move that had harmed the level of education at religious schools in Beersheba.

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MK Avraham Burg (Labor) yesterday learns cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques using a dummy during Health Day in the Knesset. Cardiologist Mervyn Gotsman, who checked the blood pressure and cholesterol and sugar levels of many MKs, said he would like to see them holding their informal talks while riding exercise bikes rather than sitting around food-laden tables in the legislators' cafeteria. Gotsman said the state of health among MKs is no different from the population at large, and that most are in good health. The Knesset intends to open its own health center in a bomb shelter soon, though a previous health center closed down a few years ago for lack of use. (Text: Dan Izenberg; photo: Avi Hayoun)

## High Court holds off on Yemenite children probe

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday postponed a decision on a petition demanding the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s, saying it wants to wait for the conclusions of a government committee set up to investigate the problem.

The decision was received with anger by the dozens of Yemenites crowding the courtroom. Some were removed from the hall by the police for screaming insults at the judges.

"We cannot let the Shalgi Committee finish its work, because it is likely to conclude that hundreds of children died, on the basis of incomplete documentation," said attorney Rami Damari, representing the petitioners. "This would put the families into a very difficult situation."

Damari explained that according to Halacha, the family should begin formal mourning procedures upon receiving notification of a child's death from the government. In practice, however, the families do not trust the Shalgi committee's conclusions, he said, and therefore will not know what to do.

The committee, headed by Judge Moshe Shalgi, was set up in 1988, and is expected to finish its work in about three months. The state told

the court that the government will decide whether a commission of inquiry is mandated after it has seen the committee's conclusions.

Justices Theodor Orr, Misha'el Cheshin and Tova Strasberg-Cohen accepted this, and deferred discussion of the petition until after the Shalgi Committee finishes its work.

The petition was submitted by Moshe Nahum, a native of Yemen who has lived in Canada for the past 30 years, and who is president of the International Organization for the Rescue of Jews in Distress and the Unification of Yemenite Families.

Nahum claims that thousands of Yemenite children were kidnapped, with government complicity, between 1948 and 1950. Although a committee set up in 1968 to investigate the question said that most of the children had died, no graves were ever found, the petition charged. The Shalgi committee — which has also concluded that most of the children died — is insufficient, the petition added, because, not being a formal commission of inquiry, it lacks the power to subpoena witnesses, and is basing its conclusions solely on documents, many of which are questionable.

Furthermore, several Knesset committees have demanded the establishment of a commission of inquiry, but have been ignored, the petition noted.

## Israeli consuls-general confer:

### 'Broader agenda needed with American Jewry'

ISRAELI and American Jewry need to expand their relations beyond the political and peace process issues, Israeli consuls-general concluded here in a weekend meeting.

Among the areas needing immediate attention in the US are Jewish education, streamlined investment opportunities in Israel and encouragement of aliyah, they said.

"Out of recognition that this is an opportune moment between Israel and the US on the political side, and in light of the fact that as

a result of this the stumbling blocks have been removed from the bilateral relationship, we must plan ways to deepen our relations" with American Jewry, Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General Eitan Bentzur told the group.

In light of the alarming pace of assimilation, the officials concluded that Israeli emissaries need to redouble their efforts to strengthen Jewish identity in the US. Failing that will endanger long-term political support for Israel, they warned.

Israel should also increase its

efforts to encourage expatriates to return home, the consuls-general said.

The weekend meeting here was held in advance of the conference later this month at Beit Hanassi between American Jewish leaders and President Ezer Weizman. The two-day conference, which was organized at Weizman's initiative, "is meant to be a constructive discussion of the relationships" in an effort to "bridge the gaps." Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations executive vice-president Malcolm Hoenlein said yesterday.

## Fraud squad questions mayor of Shfaram

DAVID RUDGE

SHFARAM Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein yesterday categorically denied any involvement in alleged cases of bribery and mismanagement in the municipality.

Nimr Hussein, who is also chairman of the forum of Arab Council Heads, was questioned on Monday by members of the national fraud squad at the Kiryat Haim police station.

"They asked me some questions and I answered them. I've got nothing to hide and everything I've done is above board," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Nimr Hussein said the police inquiries had begun over a year ago and several municipality officials had already been questioned.

"There have been some allegations regarding tenders and some claims of mismanagement, but it has got nothing to do with me," said the mayor.

Meanwhile, police in Shfaram announced yesterday that a clerk at the municipality had been arrested on suspicion of forging receipts and stealing nearly NIS 500,000 over the past two years.

Shfaram station commander David Frenkel said the suspect Mohammed Ahmed A'atreh, 34, of Shfaram, was cooperating with inquiries and had returned 90 percent of the money. A'atreh appeared before the Acre Magistrates Court yesterday and was remanded in custody for 10 days.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Accord to prevent sanctions against El Al

The US Department of Transportation, the Transport Ministry and the American airline World Airways have reached an agreement aimed at staving off sanctions against El Al for its continuing opposition to World's flying between the US and Israel.

The Americans were planning to cancel three El Al weekly flights to the US, beginning June 22, according to Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar. Kessar said he met with representatives of World Airways to try to work out a compromise, and World officials said they would pass this on to the American officials. Kessar said that for now, the sanctions against El Al had been postponed until the end of the month. *litm*

### Hebrew Union's Gottschalk to be chancellor

Alfred Gottschalk, president of the oldest rabbinical seminary in the US, said Monday he will become the school's chancellor in the next year when a new president is hired.

The board of trustees at Hebrew Union College moved Monday to establish a search committee to find a new president and invited Gottschalk to become chancellor, he said.

Gottschalk, 64, said he expects to become chancellor sometime during the next academic year that runs from July 1994 to June 1995. *AP*

### Shohat: CIS immigrants a bonus, not burden

THE 500,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have arrived since the end of 1989 have been a bonus to Israel's economy and not a burden on it, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday.

He was speaking at a festive gathering of the Zionist Executive in Jerusalem attended by WZO Board of Governors Chairman Mendel Kaplan and a group of new immigrants who had just arrived.

However Shohat conceded Israel is looking to the future with some trepidation since aliyah has dropped from an all-time high of close to 300,000 in 1990 and 1991 to a projected 70,000 this year. Kaplan said that Shohat "got a bargain. The olim changed Israel into a society that has self-sustaining economic growth and a GNP close to that of England."

Acting Jewish Agency chairman Yehiel Leket pointed out that some 150,000 of the olim were under 18 years old. He expressed the hope that the number of olim from the CIS would reach one million before the end of the century.

"We hope to be able to repay the country for the education it is giving us," said Galya Milman, one of the 18-year-olds, who made aliyah from Tataria last week.

### Defense minister of Ecuador due here

Ecuador's defense minister is due to arrive here today for a nine-day visit as the guest of Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

General Jose Gallardo Roman will be received by an IDF honor guard at the Defense Ministry, where he will meet with Rabin, Chief of Staff Ehud Barak and ministry Director-General David Levy. While in Israel, Roman will be briefed on the structure of the security establishment, the situation in the region, and on the capabilities of Israel's defense industries.

### Tourism up 13% in first quarter of '94

The number of tourists arriving here rose 13 percent in the first quarter of 1994 compared with the same period last year, the Tourism Ministry announced yesterday.

From January through March, 658,400 visitors arrived here, 53,400 of them by ship. Some 383,100 tourists arrived from Europe, up 17% from last year, while 124,400 came from the US, an 8% increase.

The number of tourists from the Far East also went up, with 5,500 from Japan, or a 40% increase, and 5,900 from South Korea, a 75% increase. Tourism from Egypt doubled during the period, with 5,900 arrivals. *litm*

### JNF dedicates Beit She'an reservoir

The largest reservoir in the Beit She'an Valley, at Kibbutz Geshor, which will hold 2.5 million cubic meters of water, was dedicated there yesterday. Among those attending were Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur, British Ambassador Andrew Burns and South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson. JNF head Moshe Rivlin and two large contingents of JNF supporters from Great Britain and South Africa.

## Male prostitutes acquitted of murder

RAINE MARCUS

TWO homosexual prostitutes were acquitted of murder by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, after their lawyer caught the chief prosecution witness lying.

Judges Edmond Levy, Nissim Yeskayahu, and Devera Berliner acquitted the two after ruling the prosecution could not prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Majed Nassar, 24, and Adiv Mezhar, 21, were charged with murdering Avraham Greenberg, 60, in April 1992 after having sex with him in his Tel Aviv apartment. According to the indictment, the two battered, strangled, and then stabbed Greenberg before stealing his jewelry and money.

A minor who apparently accompanied them to the apartment became a prosecution witness, but lawyer Maxim Atlas accused him of lying and being briefed by another witness.

The witness had told police that Nassar had written a note near the body saying Hamas had killed Greenberg, but a handwriting expert proved the note had not been written by his clients. Detectives investigating the murder, said Atlas, had shown the witness all evidence gathered at the scene of the crime before he testified.

Another prosecution witness — a minor serving time for the killing of another homosexual prostitute — agreed to testify in return for the closing of other criminal files against him and a lenient sentence.

Atlas also complained he was not given all prosecution evidence prior to the trial. A video film showing one witness encouraging another to "spill the beans" was shown during the trial, and Atlas argued that the witnesses had lied in order to avoid prosecution.

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# Clinton warns against 'cancer' of extremism in Europe

TERENCE HUNT  
PARIS

IN the first address by a US president to the French National Assembly in 75 years, President Clinton yesterday urged patience on Bosnia and called on Europeans to pull together against anti-democratic forces.

"We must be patient," Clinton said. "We must understand that we do not have total control of events within every nation, but we have made progress in Bosnia and we must keep at it." He said this will require both firmness and patience.

Clinton said the growing free world faces the post-Cold War challenge to "unite our people when they do not feel themselves in imminent peril."

"Our challenge now," Clinton said, "is to unite our people around the opportunities of peace as those who went before us united against the dangers of war."

"It is a mighty challenge," Clinton told the French lawmakers. "It will require resources. It will take years, even decades."

Clinton was greeted with warm applause when he stepped to the lectern in the ornate assembly hall. He was the first US president to speak in the assembly since Woodrow Wilson's address after the end of World War I in 1919.

While the Cold War has evaporated, there is a "cancerous presence eating away at states" in the form of "purposeless slaughter in Bosnia," the rise of skin-heads, antisemitism and other hatreds, Clinton said.

This, he said, has left people across Europe "addicted to the political painkillers. Counseling patience, Clinton said the nations of Europe have chosen democracy and must stay on that path."

The lawmakers, most of them listening to simultaneous translations through headphones, did not applaud during Clinton's speech but gave him a long standing ovation at the end.

Clinton stressed accomplishments in Bosnia, noting that the ethnic fighting had not spread into a wider Balkan conflict, that Bosnian Muslims and Croats had signed a peace agreement and that humanitarian airlifts had succeeded.

"We must do all we can to get both sides to embrace" UN proposals for a cease-fire, he said.

On his first visit to France as president, Clinton endorsed a UN proposal for a renewable four-month cease-fire in the former Yugoslav republic and enlisted Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's support for sanctions against North Korea, a communist nation



US President Bill Clinton addresses the French National Assembly yesterday, the first US president to do so since 1919.

denying vital nuclear information to international inspectors.

Clinton held separate talks with Gaullist leaders Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, and Balladur. Both want to be the conservative candidate in presidential elections next year.

He also was meeting with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who says he intends to remain in office until his term ends in 1995 despite a battle with

cancer.

Thousands of businessmen, tourists and children lined Clinton's motorcade route through downtown Paris, straining for a glimpse of the president in his armored limousine. White-gloved police officers were stationed every 50 feet.

Clinton began the day addressing hundreds of US Embassy workers in the embassy garden and then had breakfast with about 60 American and French business

executives.

The president arrived in Paris late Monday from the Normandy coast after taking part in observances commemorating the D-Day invasion of Nazi-held France a half-century ago.

Clinton will fly to England today to receive a degree from Oxford University, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar. That is the last stop on his eight-day European trip. He is to return to Washington late today.

# Hundreds of thousands of illegal weapons circulating in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) - About 150,000 illegal firearms and 300,000 hand grenades have fallen into criminals' hands in Russia, many of them stolen from weapons plants and army depots with shoddy security, police said yesterday.

Security is so lax that "in fact the wonder is that more weapons have not been stolen. If we had smarter criminals, millions of weapons would have been stolen," police Lt. Gen. Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov told reporters.

The easy availability of illegal weapons accounts for "the dramatic rise" of crimes involving the use of firearms, he said.

Ogorodnikov named several channels through which illegal firearms make their way to the underground arsenal of the criminal world.

More than 38,000 machine

guns, assault rifles and pistols have been stolen from army warehouses during the withdrawal of Russian troops from the former Soviet republics and Eastern Europe, he said.

Some firearms cross Russia's "transparent" borders from conflict zones in the former Soviet Union, such as Nagorno-Karabakh, Georgia, Moldova and Tajikistan, Ogorodnikov said. In addition, Baltic criminals have started to smuggle in Chinese-made weapons.

Weapons also are stolen from army units stationed in ethnic trouble spots inside Russia and from weapons-producing plants in the central Russian cities of Tula and Izhevsk in the Ural Mountains.

Last year, more than 10 criminal groups were uncovered at

Tula plants. The criminals had stolen weapon parts, assembled the guns outside factories and sold them to the underworld, Ogorodnikov said.

Ogorodnikov said more than 300,000 hand grenades were stolen from army units, explaining that the military considers grenades ammunition and issues them to soldiers by the box without any records.

Since the beginning of 1993, police registered 650 explosions across the country which killed 116 people and wounded about 500. The blasts mostly involved army-standard hand grenades, mines and explosives, Ogorodnikov said.

Apart from illegal weapons, there are some three million licensed firearms, including 60,000 rifles, he said.

# Mormon leader calls for reconciliation

LARRY B. STAMMER  
SALT LAKE CITY

WITH a plea to disaffected Mormons to return to the fold, Howard W. Hunter assumed the mantle of leadership Monday as the 8.8 million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Believed by the faithful to be God's prophet on earth with the power of divine revelation, Hunter was unanimously selected with a ritual laying-on of hands during a closed ceremony Sunday in the Mormon Temple by the Council of the 12 Apostles, the church's highest governing authority.

Hunter, 86, who practiced law in Los Angeles for 30 years and is the first president-prophet to be born in the 20th century, succeeds Ezra Taft Benson, 94, who died May 30. Benson was buried here Saturday.

Hunter's selection was not unexpected, even though he has suffered from serious health problems. The church has always conferred the office of president and prophet on its most senior apostle. Church presidents serve for life.

Hunter's tone of reconciliation

comes at a time when Mormons have been excommunicated for publicly calling for the admission of women to the all-male priesthood and for the right to intellectual freedom in pursuing Mormon studies. Two prominent dissidents, including Steve Benson, oldest grandchild of Ezra Taft Benson, have called the church's actions an "inquisition" and a "purge."

Writing in the May 22 issue of *The Arizona Republic*, Steve Benson and his wife, Mary Ann, said, "The purge has intimidated many Mormons into silence, who fear being expelled from the church."

But on Monday, Hunter called for harmony in the church.

"I pray that we might treat each other with more kindness, more courtesy, more humility and patience and forgiveness," Hunter told reporters, reading from a prepared statement. "To those who have transgressed or been of-

fended, we say come back. To those who are hurt and struggling and afraid, we say let us stand with you and dry your tears."

Hunter also struck an unmistakably orthodox theme. He spoke of the need for disciplined living following the commandments of God.

Without mentioning any specific doctrine, he added, "To those who are confused and assailed by error on every side, we say come to the God of all truth and the church of continuing revelation. Come back. Stand with us. Carry on. Be believing."

Despite the conciliatory tone of Hunter's remarks, church leaders and others said they expect no dramatic changes in official church policy. They noted that major decisions are made by the Council of the 12 Apostles in association with the First Presidency, a three-man office headed by Hunter as president-prophet and his two advisers, First Counselor Gordon B. Hinckley and Second Counselor Thomas S. Monson.

Los Angeles Times

# English tribunal says Irish jokes are no laughing matter

# Record number of inmates in US jails

WILLIAM CLAIBORNE and PIERRE THOMAS  
WASHINGTON

LONDON (Reuters) - An industrial tribunal ruled that an Irish-born foundry worker who "would not take Irish jokes lying down" suffered racial discrimination when dismissed from his job, an equal rights group said yesterday.

Trevor McAuley, a 36-year-old machinist, was told he had an "attitude problem" when he complained and was sacked.

But an industrial tribunal ruled he had suffered racial discrimination and awarded him £5,900 (\$8,800) compensation.

McAuley told a news conference sponsored by the Commission for Racial Equality in London that he was subjected to daily anti-Irish jokes at the foundry in Derbyshire, central England, where he had worked for two years.

His colleagues called him a "typically thick Paddy" and made other comments also implying that Irish people are stupid.

The tribunal ruled that McAuley was dismissed "principally because he was an Irishman who would not take Irish jokes lying down." In other words he did not fit in. It said managers should have stopped the remarks being made.

Herman Ouseley, chairman of the commission, said it was the first time such a case had been heard by an industrial tribunal.

"We know from regular complaints made to us that Irish people suffer this abuse day after day," he told the news conference.

The English have a history of telling Irish jokes, just as the French tell Belgian jokes or the Brazilians Portuguese jokes.

THE number of inmates in state and federal prisons climbed to nearly a million last year, an almost threefold increase since 1980, according to a Justice Department report issued last week.

Last year's growth alone represented an average weekly gain of about 1,250 prisoners. Congress is poised to stiffen penalties for dozens of crimes, thereby exacerbating the problem.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics said that nearly half the increase in prisoners since 1980 was linked to drug offenders entering prison. In 1992, the last year for which data on drug offenders were available, prison commitments for drug offenses reached 30 percent of all new commitments, the department said.

The "War on Drugs" produced longer federal and state sentences, mandatory minimum terms and tighter parole policies for drug and violent crimes.

In addition to drug offenders, the numbers of people jailed for sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and burglary have increased, the report said. Those crimes accounted for nearly 50,000 people entering prison in 1992, according to the Justice Department.

Inmate growth also was linked to increases in the number of parole and probation violators returned to prison. In 1980, only 17 percent of state prisoners were parole or probation violators, but by 1992 this had risen to 30 percent.

Overall, the nation's prisons held 948,881 inmates at the end of last year, compared with 329,821 men and women in 1980. The average annual increase for the 14-year period was 8.5 percent.

At the end of last year, state prisons were estimated to be operating at between 18 and 29 percent above capacity, while the federal

system was estimated to be 36 percent over capacity.

The rapid rise in incarcerations underscored the fiscal impact of rising crime rates, primarily on state governments. Corrections officials estimate that it costs at least \$15,000 a year to house each prisoner, and say the cost of building prisons has been rising annually.

The report said that California had the most inmates in state facilities in 1992 (119,951), followed by Texas (71,103) and New York (64,569). Texas had an additional 29,546 inmates in local jails awaiting transfer to state prisons.

The report stressed - and local law enforcement officials confirmed - that inmate overcrowding and rising costs of incarceration have forced a number of states to begin housing prisoners in local jails.

The Washington Post

# World's poor rise by 70,000 a day - report

LONDON (Reuters) - The number of people in the world living in absolute poverty is rising by 70,000 a day, the British charity Actionaid said in a study they were to release today.

It warned in a report that by the year 2000, 700 million people will still be without safe water and 100 million children will not be going to primary schools.

"Unless concerted action is taken now to help people out of the poverty trap and into a sustainable

lifestyle, the numbers in absolute poverty will reach 1.5 billion by the year 2000," Actionaid director Martin Griffiths said.

The charity said targets for access to safe water, basic education and health care, which were set at a world summit for children in 1990, will not be met.

The report, entitled "Rooting out Poverty," was compiled from official statistics and Actionaid's field work in 20 of the world's poorest countries.

# French court clears Attali in plagiarism case

PARIS (Reuters) - A French court yesterday dismissed a suit by Nobel Prize-winner Elie Wiesel's publishers alleging that President Francois Mitterrand's former chief aide, Jacques Attali, had plagiarized Wiesel's work.

Wiesel's publishers, Editions Odile Jacob, said they would appeal against the commercial court ruling, which rejected the suit for 15 million francs (\$2.6 million) in damages.

The ruling was a victory for the 50-year-old Attali, who was Mitterrand's closest adviser from 1981 to 1991.

He resigned in disgrace as head of the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development last year after auditors criticized him for wasteful spending.

The trial pitted two publishing companies against each other, not the authors, and turned on business practices, not moral standards.

Jacob had accused Attali's publishers, Fayard, of "stealing" 43 passages from exclusive interviews Wiesel conducted with Mitterrand in 1988 and 1989, included without attribution in Attali's voluminous memoirs *Verbatim*, published last year.

Wiesel's publishers had asked the court to convict Fayard of unfair competition and to award it damages covering expected losses in sales of a book the Nobel peace laureate planned to write based on

the interviews.

They said Fayard knew Jacob was planning to publish Wiesel's interviews but nevertheless went ahead and printed Attali's book, an insider's look at the French presidency from 1981-86.

It was not clear whether Wiesel would go ahead and publish his book, which his lawyer said Attali had "deflowered."

Fayard lawyer Murielle Brouquet said the court ruled "it was never established that Fayard or its chairman, Claude Durand, had even incomplete knowledge of the discussions between the president and Elie Wiesel."

She said the court found that Fayard committed no wrongdoing in publishing the extracts or in ordering new copies to be printed after the suit was lodged.

The court ordered Editions Odile Jacob to pay the defendant's legal costs but dismissed Fayard's counter-suit for 3.5 million francs (\$615,000) in damages to its good name.

The ruling was a triumph for the well-established publisher over a rising competitor run by a former Fayard employee.

Odile Jacob said she was "stunned" by the decision.

# Schindler letter given to US Holocaust museum

EMILY TORGAN  
NEW YORK

A LETTER which saved Oskar Schindler was donated by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington last Sunday.

Written by two Jewish organizations, the letter identified Schindler as the German businessman who saved hundreds of Jews from the Cracow ghetto by having them work for him in a labor camp manufacturing pots and pans.

The letter, translated from Polish, reads, "From our own conviction

and experiences, as we have among us people who worked there, we can confirm that he saved the lives of 1,000 Jews at a time when death threatened them without fail immediately before the end of the war."

The letter was held for years in JDC's archives and was presented to the museum as part of JDC's 80th anniversary celebration.

After the war, Schindler asked for and received funds from the JDC to rebuild his life, first in Argentina then in Germany. He died in 1974.

# Herman's Hermits' guitarist dead at 48

LONDON (AP) - Derek "Lek" Leckenby, lead guitarist of the rock band Herman's Hermits, died on Saturday in Manchester of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, the group said in a press release.

The Guinness Book of Rock Stars says Leckenby was born May 14, 1946, in the city of Leeds.

He had been battling the disease for three years, according to the press release. He continued to perform with the group until late May, when he was admitted to hospital.

The band will continue touring. They have sold more than 50 million records since they were formed in 1964.

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Korea stands defiant. US vows sanctions.

adu leader assassination triggers Kashmir riot

Italy asks Argentina for extradition of...



## N Korea stands defiant, US vows sanctions

VIENNA (Reuters) - North Korea defines the United Nations yesterday with a flat refusal to open nuclear sites to international inspection.

But the United States, vowing to hold its course in the crisis, warned it would not be deterred from seeking sanctions.

France said it backed President Bill Clinton's determination to seek punitive UN action against Stalinist Pyongyang for breaking its pledge of nuclear openness under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But Russia said the time was not ripe for sanctions, insisting on its own proposal for an international conference.

As the war of words intensified over suspicions that North Korea is secretly building nuclear weapons, its envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna slammed another door on the UN nuclear safeguards body.

Yon Ho-jin said his government would never consent to giving the IAEA access to two sites mooted as a possible alternative source of vital evidence in tracking North Korea's stocks of plutonium.

"Our position is clear and unchanged. The DPRK [North Korea] will never allow inspections of the two sites," he told a news conference during an IAEA board of governors meeting.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Washington was not scared by North Korea's threat to regard any future economic sanctions as an act of war.

"We will not be intimidated by that kind of talk," he told NBC television. "We need to proceed deliberately and firmly following the policies that we're following, and I think that the North Koreans will then have to make their choice."

Christopher said he was optimistic other nations would join Washington in imposing "a very effective sanctions regime."

"That's our present goal; we're going to be definite and firm about it," he said.

## Hindu leader's assassination triggers Kashmir riots

JAMMU, India (AP) - Hindus and Moslems battled in the northern state of Kashmir yesterday after Moslem separatists assassinated the second Hindu politician there in a week.

Authorities imposed a curfew in two towns of Jammu-Kashmir, the only Moslem-majority state in predominantly Hindu India, after Hindu nationalists attacked government buildings and killed at least one Moslem man.

Both assassinations occurred in the town of Bhatnagar and targeted members of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, popularly known as the BJP. Activists of the BJP, the largest opposition group in Parliament, took to the streets shortly after Tuesday's killing and attacked Moslem homes, damaging them with wooden poles and rocks and setting at least one on fire.

Many Hindus were armed with guns, police said on condition of anonymity.

They also stoned and ransacked government buildings. Police said one Moslem civilian, Bashir Ahmed, was killed by the rioters and at least four were injured. Police said Ahmed died of gun shot wounds, but did not give details.

Police have blamed both assassinations on Moslem militants who have been fighting for independence in Jammu-Kashmir, but no group has yet claimed responsibility.

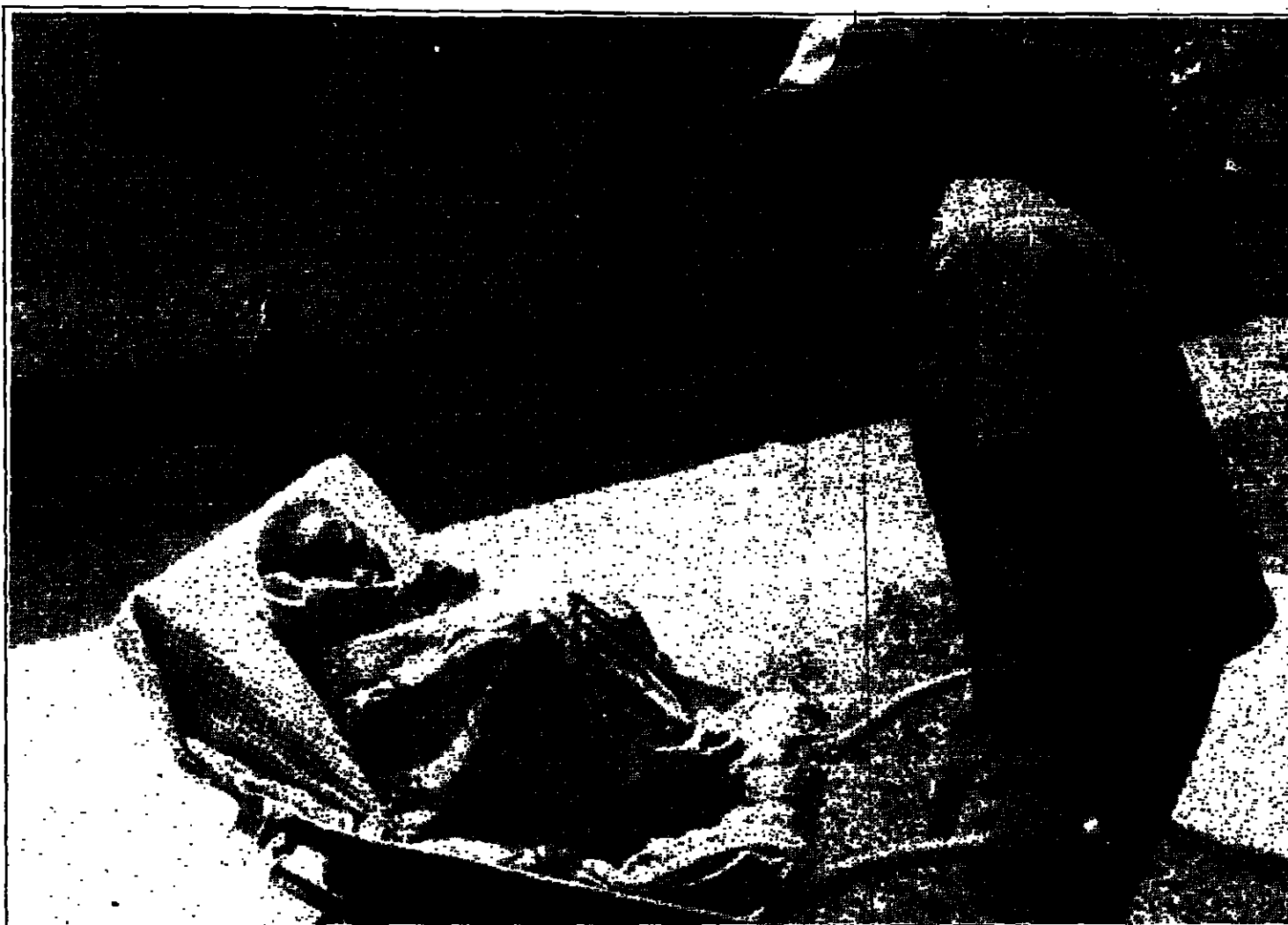
Hours after the early-morning assassination of Ruchir Kumar, government officials imposed a curfew. They later deployed troops to help police control the Hindu rioters.

Soldiers armed with machine guns patrolled Bhatnagar in armored cars after the riots to keep people in their homes.

## Italy asks Argentina for extradition of Nazi

ROME (Reuters) - Italy yesterday formally asked Argentina to hand over former Nazi SS captain Erich Priebke so he can stand trial for war crimes.

"Justice Minister Alfredo Biondi has signed a request for the extradition of Erich Priebke... and has also informed the Argentine government that Priebke, among other crimes, has also committed crimes against humanity," the Italian Justice Ministry said.



A wounded child is carried on a wheelbarrow to a hospital at Nyamata, some 25 km. from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. The town is under the control of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front.

## UN Rwanda relief flights, evacuations on hold amid continued shelling

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) - Government and rebel troops battled for control of the Rwandan capital and the south of the country yesterday, forcing the UN to again suspend refugee evacuations and relief flights.

"Nothing has changed - there are no evacuations possible, no relief planes," UN spokesman Pierre Mehu said in the capital, Kigali. "Every hour there is a round of shelling."

Battles also continued around Gitarama, about 50 kilometers southwest of Kigali, where the Rwandan government fled when fighting broke out two months ago.

Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels captured Gitarama's neighboring community of Kabgayi last week and cut all major roads out of Gitarama.

"But Gitarama is still in the hands of the government," Mehu said. "They are holding ground and the fight is continuing."

Mehu said a United Nations convoy set out yesterday to bring in supplies from neighboring Uganda. Fighting prevented UN peacekeepers from evacuating civilians from the beleaguered capital for a fourth straight day yesterday.

For the third day, they were unable to receive any relief

flights with supplies for their troops and thousands of people under their protection in the city. The 450-man UN force in Rwanda began rationing fuel Monday because of shortages due to the shutdown of Kigali airport.

UN commanders had been hoping cease-fire talks started last week could resume today, but Mehu said it looked like they could not get rebel and army commanders back to the table until at least tomorrow or Friday.

In Oslo, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said the fighting in Rwanda has created the biggest flow of

refugees in current times, but without a cease-fire there is little the UN can do to help.

"The way things are now, with not even UN flights able to get in, we can only plan aid for the future," Sadako Ogata told a conference on cooperation between the UNHCR and non-governmental aid agencies.

Ogata said at least 700,000 Rwandans were believed to have fled to neighboring countries since the war started. The estimate includes 450,000 arriving in Tanzania, 150,000 in Burundi, 100,000 in Zaire and 10,000 in Uganda, she said.

## Mandela's government announces amnesty plan

CAPE TOWN (AP) - President Nelson Mandela's new government said yesterday it would grant amnesty for political crimes, but only if wrongdoers confessed full details of their deeds in the war for and against apartheid.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar told reporters the government wanted to make a "clean break" with the past and create "a culture of human rights."

"Reconciliation is not simply a question of indemnity or amnesty and letting bygones be bygones," Omar said. "If the wounds of the past are to be healed... disclosure of the truth and its acknowledgment are essential."

Under the proposals, a "truth commission" would investigate human rights abuses and political crimes and present a report to Mandela intended to bring to a close the apartheid-era history of revolutionary terror and brutal repression.

As president, Mandela would have the fi-

nal say on who received amnesty. He has repeatedly stressed he will consider any option to bring reconciliation in a nation torn for decades by deep-rooted racial divisions.

Omar refused to discuss specific cases, but said the cutoff date would be December 6, 1993, one day before the Transitional Executive Council convened in what many people consider to have been the end of white rule.

That means the killers of top African National Congress and Communist Party leader Chris Hani and American student Amy Biehl could be eligible, if their crimes were deemed politically motivated. White extremists accused of bombings that killed 21 people this year in a bid to derail April's all-race election, the nation's first, would not be eligible.

Police investigating the bombings arrested more than 30 members of the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, which said in a statement yesterday its "struggle must continue and even intensify" because the cutoff

date had not been pushed back.

But Omar made clear Mandela could use his presidential powers to grant amnesty to the white extremists, as demanded by pro-apartheid whites negotiating with the government on creating a white-dominated territory.

Mandela's ANC won the April vote, making him the nation's first black president. He repeatedly has said an amnesty for political crimes would promote political and racial reconciliation, but also has demanded full disclosure.

ANC officials believe full disclosure of political crimes could show the former white-led government, headed by F.W. de Klerk's National Party, was deeply involved in death squads and other suppression of anti-apartheid groups. Such revelations would likely hurt the National Party's chances of attracting support from the black majority.

## Colombia quake claims 64 dead, over 500 missing

BOGOTA (Reuters) - At least 64 people were killed and up to 500 may be missing after a tidal wave of mud and water swept down a river valley in southwestern Colombia, police and radio reports said yesterday.

General Carlos Alberto Pulido of National Police told Caracol radio that rescuers had confirmed 64 dead and 15 injured in the Paez river valley but added that a large number of villagers were still unaccounted for.

"We have an exact report from a cardinal in the police helicopter - 64 dead and 15 injured which are now certain and have been evaluated but apart from this there are a lot of other villages where night fell and they couldn't get out," Pulido told the radio.

Caracol Radio, quoting one of its reporters in a helicopter flying over the area, said the village of Toez, some 280 kilometers southwest of Bogota, appeared to have been swept away completely and several hundred people were missing. Dozens more were unaccounted for in the village of Islandia, the radio said.

"The avalanche from the river swept away the road," the reporter said. "The river is coming down with torrential force... houses and crops are totally destroyed. There

is nothing there. The mud and the river has taken everything."

However, Omar Dario Cardona, head of the National Disaster Prevention Office in Bogota, said he only had confirmation of six dead, 34 injured and 12 disappeared. Some 2,040 people had been affected by the disaster and 198 houses were destroyed, he added.

Cardona said he could not comment on the radio reports because his men had not fully evaluated the situation in the disaster area.

Red Cross officials in Bogota said they were working with unofficial reports of 150 people missing but had nothing confirmed because of the difficulties in achieving communication with the area.

The reports said a strong earthquake Monday afternoon dislodged sheets of ice in the Nevado del Huila mountain range, causing the tidal wave that swept down into the Paez valley. The avalanche of mud swept away roads in the remote, mountainous area, and rescuers did not reach the disaster zone until yesterday morning.

The earthquake itself killed two people, left hundreds homeless and was felt in a wide area of southern and central Colombia, including the capital Bogota.

## Truce talks flounder as Bosnia rivals fight

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Talks aimed at a Bosnia-wide truce headed for an apparent breakdown in Geneva yesterday as rivals showed little readiness to agree on the length of a cease-fire while clashing on battlefronts at home.

UN special envoy in Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi said after separate meetings with Bosnian Moslems, Croats and Serbs that his bags were packed to return to his headquarters in Zagreb.

"Today seems to be more and more difficult. I will continue the negotiations until tomorrow morning if there is a real hope," Akashi told reporters.

"If I don't see any rapprochement between the two sides I will postpone the negotiations and continue them in Sarajevo and Pale or in Sarajevo airport."

Akashi said Serbs are pushing for a year-long cease-fire and the allied Moslems and Croats are calling for a four-week truce.

A UN spokesman in Sarajevo said the sides exchanged shell and mortar fire in northern

Bosnia on Monday, with 1,143 detonations reported around Ribnica, southwest of Tuzla.

Sarajevo radio said Serb forces launched artillery and tank attacks on Gradacac, north of Tuzla, yesterday with more than 400 shells hitting the town and nearby villages.

Serbs countered by saying the Moslems had fired first. They also reported a Croatian attack from nearby Orasje.

The United Nations could not immediately confirm either report. The towns are located along the vital supply corridor that links Serb-held territory in Bosnia and Croatia to Serbia.

In Geneva, Akashi presented his own draft cease-fire accord in separate meetings with both sides on Monday.

The draft, which he later revised, proposed an initial four-month cease-fire during which a final political settlement would be reached. The cease-fire would be enforced by about 5,000 extra UN peacekeepers deployed along front lines.

## 12-year-old pilot completes trans-Atlantic flight

GLASGOW (AP) - Twelve-year-old Vicki Van Meter completed her trans-Atlantic flight yesterday, touching down in Scotland at the end of a three-hour flight from Maine.

Flying a plane she calls "Harmony," the sixth-grader from Meadville, Pa., accompanied by her flight instructor - believes she is the youngest girl to pilot a plane to Europe.

The flight path, planned by the young pilot, closely follows that of Amelia Earhart's 1932 solo flight across the Atlantic.

Vicki's father said earlier that he would allow his daughter, who is not old enough to drive a car, to taste the champagne that was waiting for her at Glasgow International Airport. She landed on schedule at 5:30 p.m.

"She's allowed to drink some, but I told her not to guzzle it," Jim Van Meter chuckled.

Van Meter said Vicki has been at the controls of the single-engine Cessna 210 the whole way. Instructor Curt Arnsperger has been videotaping Vicki's landings.

The first leg of the overseas flight, from Newfoundland to Greenland, was the most harrowing. Van Meter said from a hotel in Iceland.

Vicki encountered strong head winds and cold weather that caused ice to build up on the plane, forcing her to fly much of the way a mere 500 feet (170 meters) above the sea, said her father. Usually, the plane would fly between 3,000 and 7,000 feet (1,000 to 2,350 meters) above sea level.

Vicki was greeted in Greenland on Monday by about 40 people. Inuit children held up signs welcoming her and chanting, "Vicki, Vicki," her father said, adding, "She had no idea any of this was coming."

Another 30 people turned out to meet Vicki when she landed in Reykjavik, Iceland.

"I'm her dad but I've got to say it was a beautiful landing," Van Meter said.

NATO officials have been tracking Vicki's plane since it left Reykjavik about noon yesterday. After Scotland, further stops are planned in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

## N. Yemenis repeat cease-fire offer despite fighting

SANAA (Reuters) - Artillery duels ripped to shreds a short-lived cease-fire in Yemen's civil war yesterday but the government in the north, which declared the truce, said it would stop fighting the moment its secessionist southern foes did.

Each side accused the other of violating the cease-fire, which the north declared from midnight Monday following pressure from the UN and Gulf Arab neighbors.

Northern shells landed around Aden, self-declared capital of the south which repudiated Yemen's 1990 union agreement on May 21.

Southern artillery blasted positions of the northern army which had been trying to remite Yemen by force.

Foreign Minister Mohammed Salem Basendwa, who announced the northern cease-fire, told a news conference in Sanaa yesterday afternoon his government had informed UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of its renewed offer.

"We urged the United Nations

secretary-general to take the necessary steps to expedite enforcing the cease-fire... We will abide by the cease-fire the moment the mutineers stop firing at our forces," Basendwa said.

He urged Gulf Arab states - who with Egypt proposed a Security Council cease-fire resolution passed on Wednesday - to take action against the south for breaking the truce.

In Geneva, Boutros-Ghali met his new Yemen troubleshooter, Lakhdar al-Ibrahimi of Algeria,

and urged the two sides to heed the Security Council demand for an immediate cease-fire.

"The secretary-general has taken note of the first attempt at achieving a cease-fire in Yemen, and urged the parties concerned to abide by it and return immediately to negotiations which would permit a peaceful resolution of their differences," a UN statement said.

Ibrahimi was due in Sanaa today or tomorrow, when he would be able to discuss possible cease-fire arrangements.

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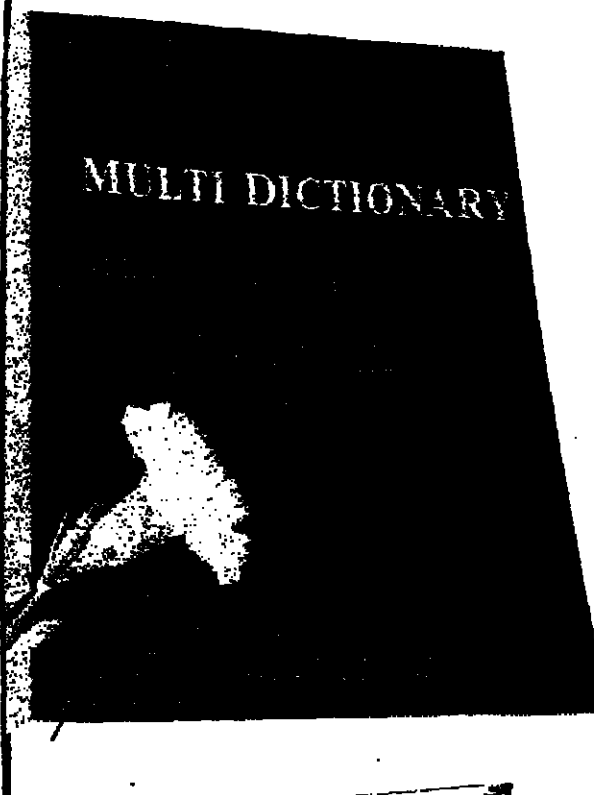
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## A question of credibility

If there is one thing the public in a democracy resents it is outright lying by public officials. In other spheres it is surprisingly tolerant: It realizes the need for sudden changes of policy; it expects campaign promises to be compromised by reality; and it has become increasingly understanding of politicians' personal peccadilloes. But when a government leader is caught in a flagrant denial of the truth, the public's disgust is exceeded only by its frustration. Nothing shakes a people's confidence more profoundly than doubts about official honesty.

But the government is apparently oblivious to this problem. It has dismissed the "letter to Arafat" incident as something blown out of proportion by the Likud opposition. It keeps stressing that the letter's promise to encourage the work of PLO institutions in Jerusalem means that only offices functioning in Jerusalem since before Labor assumed power – and not Palestinian Authority offices – will operate in the capital. And while belittling the letter's importance, it paradoxically maintains that it prevented the negotiations with the PLO from breaking down.

But defending the contents of the letter is beside the point. What matters, as several staunch government supporters have admitted, is that the highest officials in the land have been caught in a lie. As one observer, the Hebrew daily *Yedioth Ahronot* commentator Nahum Barnea, put it yesterday, "the incident is perhaps the most embarrassing since the forming of the government. The great shame is not in the letter's contents, but in the attempts to deceive. Until now we have known that the credibility of one side to the Oslo agreement, Yasser Arafat, is severely tainted. Now we are beginning to understand that there is also another side."

It is sad indeed that an ardent supporter of the Israel-PLO agreement must equate the government's reliability with that of an unregenerate liar like Arafat. It is even sadder that the Israeli public is no longer sure who is telling the truth. When a month ago Arafat first announced in Johannesburg that he had received a letter from the Israeli government concerning Jerusalem, his assertion was immediately and vehemently denied by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

But no sober observer could dismiss Arafat's claim out of hand. Too many denials of Arafat's claims in the recent past – beginning with very specific and self-righteous denials of negotiations with the PLO made by Peres himself even as he was preparing to initial the

Oslo agreements – have proved false.

It was not surprising, then, that not only the opposition but Labor party MK Emanuel Zissman insisted during yesterday's Knesset debate that the foreign minister reiterate Israel's intention to keep Jerusalem united and under its sovereignty.

Peres immediately obliged, repeating the standard government formula. But members on both sides of the aisle may be forgiven for treating this repetition of the government's Jerusalem mantra with skepticism. Peres's letter itself, which refers to "East Jerusalem" as a separate entity, is enough to raise suspicions about the government's intentions.

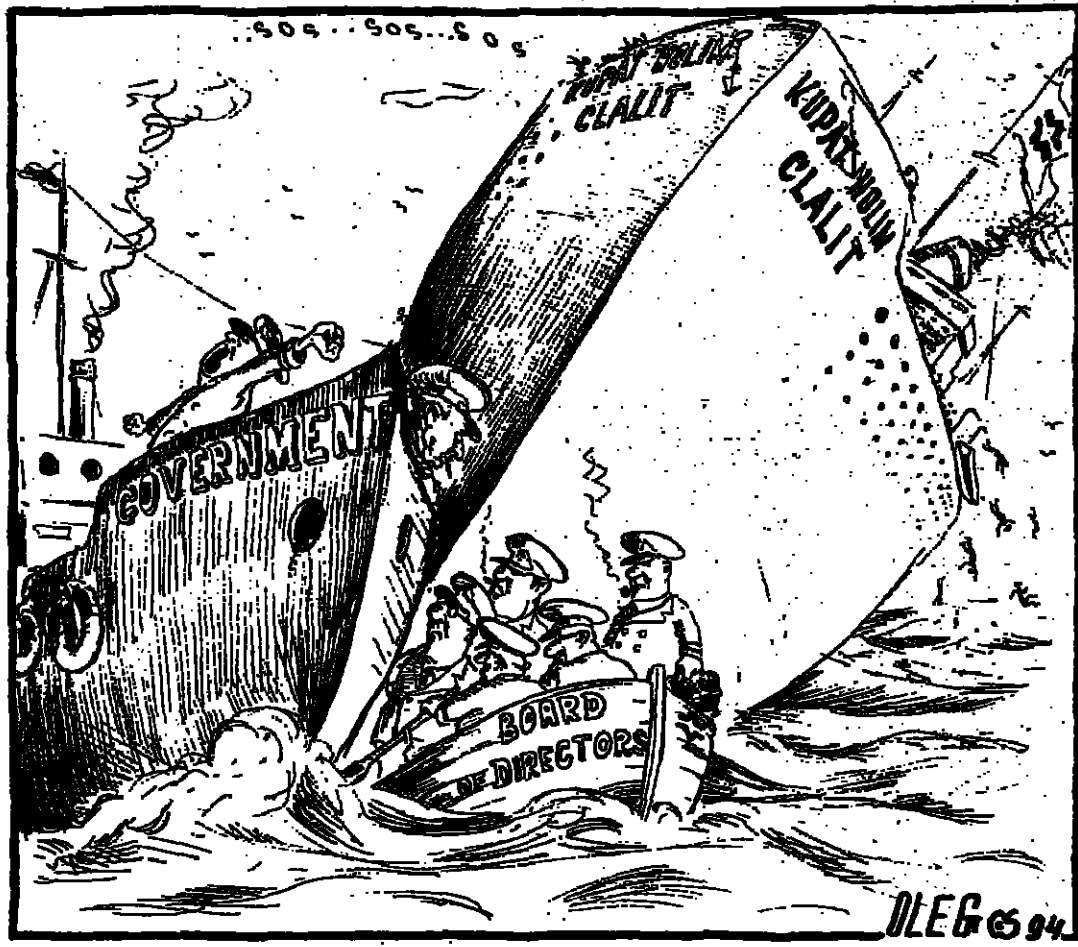
And there are other nagging indications. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, whose utterances have all too often proved to be forerunners of government policy, has called for letting a Palestinian authority run part of the city. And leftist intellectuals, who have a monopoly on the tone and direction of government policies, are engaged in a campaign to make the idea of a Palestinian capital in the eastern part of Jerusalem palatable to the general public.

Even more worrisome is that the government has decided, against the explicit recommendations of the security establishment, to let Orient House and other PLO institutions in Jerusalem continue with their work, regardless of how blatantly political their role has become.

One of the government's favorite defenses is to blame the Likud for setting a precedent for its actions. It was, after all, the Shamir government which allowed Orient House to function in Jerusalem. But the difference between Shamir's time and now is all too obvious. As a result of the Oslo and Cairo agreements the PLO now controls quasi-sovereign areas in which its political institutions can function freely and independently.

If the government means what it says about keeping Jerusalem as Israel's united capital, it must insist that all Palestinian meetings and negotiations with foreign emissaries and statesmen be removed from Jerusalem; that political activity now taking place in Orient House be transferred to Jericho or Gaza.

Such a move will also serve to restore the government's credibility. It was not a Likud member but Rabin himself who said recently that if Orient House ever becomes the PLO's foreign office (which is precisely what it has been for a long time) the whole agreement with the PLO will be annulled. It will be a shame if this pledge, too, proves as false as the denials of the existence of the letter to Arafat.



## Rabin's pretend world

YIGAL CARMON

ON one issue, Rabin appears to enjoy a broad consensus. Many Israelis assume that the steps he has taken are the result of analysis and strict adherence to the strategy of an Israel-PLO deal.

The illusion that things are proceeding in a controlled, planned way has placated even some opponents of the plan who feel that Rabin, at least from his perspective, knows what he is doing.

The premier's army record feeds the illusion, despite the fact that it is no guarantee against weakness or fatal misjudgment. (After all, it was Rabin who wrote in July 1973 that as long as the Suez Canal, there wasn't any need for a full call-up, not even in the face of threats and the deployment of enemy forces.)

Rabin's tone of voice also contributes to the illusion of control, as well as his straightforward way of saying one thing and its exact opposite (e.g. that the accord with the PLO is only an experiment; and that we have crossed the point of no return). Then he'll undermine his own basic assumptions (e.g. "There is no guarantee that Arafat will succeed in taking control in the autonomy"). And he goes on to assert that his assumptions haven't proven correct (e.g. "I erred in my estimation of Arafat's ability to reach an agreement").

It's as if the fact that Rabin himself is saying these things does away with the need to resolve the contradictions, and only proves that he is in control.

But the situation has deteriorated, and there are now worrying signs that the premier is no longer able to cope with reality.

• Blurring hard facts by playing with words. After even Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer came to the conclusion that Arafat

had violated the agreement both verbally and in practice, in a way that totally undermined its foundations, Rabin termed those violations "bull, nonsense, just words."

Had he related to the violations for what they were, he would have

**Our top man isn't on top of things, and that's a bad situation whichever way you look at it**

had to draw the kind of conclusions that carry a domestic political price tag. For this he wasn't prepared, neither in Washington, nor in Cairo. And he isn't prepared to do so today. So what does he do? He pooh-poos Singer's evaluation as well.

• Accepting that which has been forced on him and pretending that it is what he wanted. After fighting for months over every clause and word in the agreement, and after they've been violated, Rabin claims that what counts is the reality on the ground.

After selling the public an agreement that is a deal-with-the-PLO-against-Hamas, he goes along with the PLO's efforts to cooperate with Hamas despite the fact that Hamas is not renouncing terror.

It is more than a month since the signing of the agreement and there is still no autonomy council in the area, and reports say the council's platform and some of its members are contravening the

agreement. Yet Rabin takes solace in the fact that he can talk to the Palestinian police and army officers in the field, despite the fact that they aren't fighting Hamas. (Jibril Rajub, a senior officer, has even declared publicly: "The weapons in the hands of Hamas we sanctify and we will ignore them out of national responsibility.")

• Cover-ups and false reporting. This is an almost inevitable outcome of the current situation.

Ever since Arafat's jihad speech in Johannesburg, Rabin has been denying the existence of any letter regarding Jerusalem. Yet last week, Rabin admitted that a letter regarding Jerusalem's holy places had been passed on to Arafat by Foreign Minister Peres. (The same sort of thing happened in the negotiations with Syria: it was the Israeli delegation that demanded that the "Syrian document" be kept secret, while the Syrians wanted to go public.)

Maybe there were other exchanges of letters, as suggested by Faisal Hussein, who said in an interview that the PLO received letters in February. And maybe again, Rabin doesn't know what transpired between Peres and the PLO. But in any case he is responsible for the actions of the government, and its veracity.

Now Rabin is reduced to threatening that he will have to "help" the PLO fulfill the agreement if it doesn't wise up and fulfill it on its own. He will even return to status quo ante (and generals Shahak and Vilnay have a contingency plan for this).

Would that ease our domestic and international situation? The opposite. But the prime minister makes no admission, does no repentance and shows no remorse.

The writer is a former adviser to the prime minister on terrorism.

## Making of a pope

GARRY WILLS

THE pope has said, in a forceful way, that the Catholic Church can never ordain women to the priesthood. He gives us this reason: "The church has always acknowledged as a perennial norm her Lord's way of acting in choosing the 12 men whom he made the foundations of his church."

Now that is an excellent principle, but the pope has not gone far enough in applying it. If we are to take the Lord's way of acting as a perennial norm, we must be more selective than we have been. It is not enough to restrict the priesthood to men. The Lord's way of acting in this matter did not stop at a male monopoly on the priesthood.

There was, for example, the Jewish monopoly. The Lord chose only Jews for his apostles. Admittedly, it may be difficult, now, to get enough Jewish converts to supply the depleting ranks of the Catholic priesthood – but a principle is a principle. Do we mean to make the Lord's way of acting our perennial norm, or not?

**If the church is going to do things the Lord's way, the pontiff should be an Aramaic-speaking, married Jew**

If so, we must expect others (and not only women) to be sacrificed to the principle. Those priests now in ministry must produce evidence of their Jewish descent. If they protest, we should just lecture them on the Lord's way of acting, as we have lectured women for so long.

The Lord also chose married men as his apostles – certainly in the case of Peter, and probably (given the culture) in that of the others as well. Peter, after all, is the most important example in the eyes of any pope; and this pope, if he is to take the Lord's way of acting as a perennial norm, must instantly go and find a wife in order to conform to Peter's example.

This, of course, assumes that the pope has not already had to resign because of his lack of Jewish parentage. Perhaps by stretching the case a little (even perennial norms must have a little "give"), he could qualify by first converting to Judaism and then reconverting to Christianity.

Once we have taken firm hold of the perennial norm, our work is cut out for us. The apostles spoke Aramaic and a little Greek. Stretching things again, the pope can perhaps give priests a dispensation from speaking Aramaic, but they must certainly get back to speaking Greek. It is, after all, the language of the Gospels, and what more than they can be considered a perennial norm?

This is a wonderful principle, once we start applying it, the Lord's way of acting. He never went into a Christian church – there were none for him to enter. He never read in the New Testament – it had not been written yet. In fact, so far as the Gospel record goes, he never wrote anything, except some scribbles in the dirt when he disrupted a capital punishment in progress.

What a sigh of relief we can imagine from the small number of male, married, Jewish, Greek-speaking priests when they are told that at least, in imitation of the way the Lord acted, they need not write anything. If only the pope had adopted that perennial norm before penning his latest words on women.

Garry Wills, a Catholic, writes about Pope John XXIII in his new book, *Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders* (Simon & Schuster). (The Washington Post)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FULSOME PRAISE

Sir, - I have always admired the high standard of English used in your newspaper, but from now on I can give you only fulsome praise.

I your issue of May 13 reporting the sudden death of John Smith, the British Labor leader, on both the front page and page five you mentioned the fulsome eulogies that he had received from both political friends and foes.

According to the *Random House College Dictionary* fulsome is defined as 1. Offensive to good taste, esp. as being excessive; gross. 2. Disgusting, sickening, repulsive.

I have consulted many dictionaries and found none that did not give fulsome an odious definition.

ALVIN RADKOWSKY

Tel Aviv.

The first (and oldest) definition in the Merriam Webster dictionary is "characterized by abundance, copious." - Ed. J.P.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - The answer to Ruth Wiliers's letter of May 25 is that many pro-peace letters simply don't see the light of day. This gives the false impression that "public support for the ruling coalition is slipping."

DAVID SEGAL

Ramat Hasharon.

Letters that don't get written cannot see the light of day. - Ed. J.P.

### LAVATORY HUMOR

Sir, - For a journal which aspires to international recognition as one of the world's great newspapers in English, your edition of May 25 reached a nadir of bad taste and vulgarity. I refer to the cartoon by Oleg on page 6.

Political cartoons should be subtle, educated and funny. To lampoon well-known figures is perfectly acceptable, but it ill behooves your journal to indulge in lavatory humor of a schoolboy variety if it wishes to retain any reputation which it may have.

BOB STUART

Jerusalem.

### PRAYING AT THE WALL

Sir, - I was shocked and saddened after meeting some American Jewish tourists who, accompanied by their rabbi, wanted to pray Friday evening in their way (Reform) in the compound of the Western Wall, standing far from the actual Wall in consideration of the feelings of the Orthodox. Suddenly they were stormed, surrounded and threatened by haredim. They fled the area in fear when they saw hordes closing in on them. They were not afforded protection by the policemen present.

Is the compound of the Western Wall the 'Jericho' of the haredim, or are other Jews also allowed to pray there?

MAX FRIEDLANDER

Jerusalem.

### VISITING RIGHTS

Sir, - The Red Cross people appear to have a very soft heart, where certain Moslems are concerned. They have asked for permission to visit Mr. Dirani. Ought this permission to be granted? Most certainly yes, but only on one condition: that, before being allowed to meet with Mr. Dirani, the Red Cross send one of its representatives to visit Ron Arad, our missing navigator, and bring back a report, stating how and where he is kept, details of his health and mental condition, etc.

As far as I know, during these long years of Arad's captivity, the Red Cross people have not shown any interest whatsoever in his fate.

Only when this condition is satisfactorily met, can Israel grant visiting rights to the Red Cross.

MARCELLA SEGRE

Jerusalem.

### FORGIVE MY NATION

Sir, - Through this letter, I beg the Israeli nation to forgive us the grief that we have caused you. Please forgive us for betraying Israel with the Oslo agreement. Not only Israel has been deceived. The Norwegian government has also deceived its own people.

Many Christian believers in my country stand up for you, praying that "your covenant with death shall be annulled and your agreement with hell shall not stand."

HAARON SENGSTVOLL

Rade, Norway.

### MOSHE SNEH'S CONTRIBUTION

Sir, - Sarah Honig (May 30) is only partially correct when she says that Ephraim Sneh's father, Moshe, the Israeli Communist Party leader, was not placed totally beyond the political pale because of his contribution to the Yishuv prior to his political "meanderings."

Although utterly misguided, Moshe Sneh abandoned a comfortable leadership role in the Israeli establishment in the belief that it was only through an accommodation with the Soviet Union and commitment to a discredited, totalitarian ideology that he would be able to promote the interests of Israel and the Jewish people. As the years passed and he came to the realization that his dreams of Soviet aliyah and an Israel-Soviet rapprochement would not be achieved through the brutal and antisemitic Soviet regime, he became one of the first within the international Communist movement to challenge the Soviets in relation to the Jewish issue.

When, at the request of the Israeli authorities, I visited Communist Party leaders in Europe and North America and attempted to persuade them to follow the lead of the Australian Communists (who were the first to condemn Soviet antisemitism), it was clear that they were all profoundly influenced by Moshe Sneh's "Marxist" condemnations of Soviet policy, which infuriated hard-line Soviet ideologues. Hence, paradoxically, Sneh's involvement with the Communist Party ultimately became a major factor in persuading Euro-Communists and other Western Communists to exert pressure on the Soviets in relation to the Jews. In retrospect, that was a major element contributing towards the initial breakthrough in relation to Soviet aliyah.

That is why many, like myself, who were engaged in public campaigns against the Soviets and Communists, are delighted that the son of Moshe Sneh in his own right has become a minister in the government of Israel.

ISI LEIBLER

Co-Chairman, Governing Board, World Jewish Congress Melbourne, Australia.

## A changing of the guard

DAVID S. RIBNER

SO you're not happy with the peace process. The news just gets worse, and the time has come to throw the rascals (government) out.

Not a bad idea – and it couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of fellas. But wishing won't make it so, and poor tactics attain nothing. So here are a few suggestions for the currently floundering opposition:

• Don't bother with the true believers. Anyone who thinks that Messrs. Rabin and Peres or supporters such as Rabbi Ovadia Yosef will be moved to change their views by a group of demonstrators outside their doors is living in never-never land.

• Chanting "Rabin the traitor" may bring satisfaction to the demonstrators but it does little to promote the cause. You waste valuable energy by training your guns on immovable objects.

• Don't demean the other side. Just because their misinformed good intentions may be paving the way to Hell, does not mean that those who support the Oslo accords are disciples of the Prince of Darkness.

Believe it or not, they too have thought long and hard about the implications of their actions. They too love the land and worry about their grandchildren. Not only will you gain no additional support or credibility by attempting to belittle them as individuals, you run the risk of further entrenching them in their already closely-held positions.

• Stop talking just to yourselves. Granted that some energy should be invested in shoring up the home front, but the primary focus of your attention should be on winning new recruits, particularly some wavering MKs in the Labor coalition.

Think about how to speak to them, about what will convince them. Polemics, biblical passages and dire portents haven't worked so far, so why keep repeating

them? It is their concerns you must address and their language that needs mastering.

• Saying no isn't enough. If you don't have a viable alternative to the government's peace plan, you're in over your heads.

**As an opposition, you're fumbling. If you want in, wise up and get your act together**

No one is thrilled with the current situation, but no one forgets that conditions were intolerable before Labor took over.

Exactly what are you going to do with a million Palestinians who believe that their suffering has ended and statehood lies just beyond the horizon? (I hate to be the one to remind you, but in recent history, almost every popular movement has achieved its aims.)

• Loosen up. You tend to come across as uptight fanatics and no one likes an uptight fanatic. Your love of the people of Israel has been lost in the stridency of your appeal, and you are perceived as isolated and unapproachable.

There is about you a sense of paranoia and an unwillingness to trust; as a consequence, it is easier to ignore you than take you seriously. It might be prudent to remember that however justified your suspicions, the goals of most of your fellow citizens do not differ substantially from your own.

• Get your act together. Those of you in the leadership echelons have provided endless entertain-

ment for the rest of us milling around below. The gods of Greek mythology treated each other better than you do, and they hardly qualify for choirboy status.

You have failed to transmit a sense of vision, a faith in your abilities, a capacity for true leadership. Resolving this dilemma will require humility and sacrifice on your part, a scenario of discouragingly remote potential.

One final point. You are undertaking a Herculean task that likely has no historical precedent: asking the majority of this country's electorate to support the abrogation of a peace agreement entered into by their democratically chosen government and witnessed by the world's great powers, within months of its being signed.

Convincing the doubters of the legitimacy of this cause demands a level of creativity and precision you have yet to evince. So far, the smart money is on the other team.

The writer teaches at Bar-Ilan University's school of social work.

## POSTSCRIPTS

LOS ANGELES workers temporarily removed about one-third of the stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame – including top-draws Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley – for construction of the city's new subway system.

The first stars – Loretta Young and Buddy Rogers – were lifted from the pavement and packed in cushioned crates for transport to a temperature-controlled warehouse.

They will remain secluded until late 1997, after the construction of two stations on Hollywood Boulevard – one at Vine Street and the other at Highland Avenue.

Some of the other 450 stars to be placed in storage include: Bob

Hope, Groucho Marx, Vivien Leigh, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Ingrid Bergman, Charles Chaplin, Walt Disney, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Bing Crosby and Judy Garland.

Rose Bixner and her daughter, Jeannie, 20-year members of the Barry Manilow International Fan Club, have visited Manilow's star on the first Saturday of every month for the past 13 years. They clean the star with old toothbrushes, steel wool and ammonia. Jeannie threatened to lie down across the star when they came to take it away.

Removing, storing and replacing the stars will cost about \$2.2 million.



# Kudos for big-game hunter of near-extinct tongues

TOM TUGEND  
LOS ANGELES

"THE devil drives me," says 87-year-old Prof. Wolf Leslau, who has made a career of pursuing near-extinct Semitic languages in Ethiopia. "I can't live without work. If I miss one day of work, I don't feel well."

For over 60 years, as a university student in Vienna and Paris, a wartime refugee, and a professor and departmental chairman at the University of California, Los Angeles, Leslau has never strayed from his research path, and even today he discusses his work with the enthusiasm of an aspiring Ph.D. candidate.

Ask his colleagues, and they will tell you that Leslau is one of an increasingly rare species, even in the groves of academe: a Scholar, in the purest, almost medieval, sense of the word.

On June 13, in a ceremony on Mt. Scopus, the Hebrew University will confer an honorary doctorate on Leslau, a distinction he values as the highest in a career studded with academic accolades. Leslau is the sole representative of the humanities to receive the honorary degree this year, in recognition of his "many achievements as one of the most eminent scholars of Semitic studies, and especially of the Ethiopian languages, [of] the 6,000 pages of your comprehensive dictionaries, and your original investigation of unexplored languages, [which] all make an outstanding contribution to scholarship."

After a lifetime of 10-hour work days, seven days a week, Leslau the lexicographer, comparative linguist, and part-time ethnographer has produced 25 books, 225 articles, and 57 reviews, in addition to a very large number of lectures and talks.

Granted Leslau's exemplary diligence and scholarly dedication, some might believe that he led a cloistered and uneventful life. But this would be a mistake.

There was a time when he rode for five days on a mule into the Ethiopian hinterland, lugging a 14-kilo transformer. And the months when he shared a tent with mosquitoes and rats, while volunteer guards beat off prowling hyenas with shouts and drums. And how many tenured professors have entered a village to the flourish of trumpets and salutes from riflemen?

Leslau had these adventures between 1946 and 1974, when he traveled regularly to remote Ethiopian villages for months on end to track down almost extinct dialects and obscure relative clauses with the zest and persistence of a big-hunter. His arsenal on these safaris consisted of a pencil, a writing pad, a bulky disk recorder, and a relentlessly inquisitive mind.

His very first trip to Ethiopia in 1946



Prof. Wolf Leslau hosts Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie during 1967 Charter Day ceremonies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

was noteworthy for a couple of fortuitous encounters.

One was a meeting with Emperor Haile Selassie, King of Kings and Lion of Judah, which evolved from an unpromising beginning.

Arriving at Addis Ababa airport with his 14-kilo transformer to power his disk recorder, Leslau ran into an uncompromising customs official, who insisted on imposing stiff import charges.

It speaks for Leslau's persistence and nerve that he fought the customs ruling up the hierarchy until he met face-to-face with the emperor. Haile Selassie not only reversed the customs official but then, and for the remaining 28 years of his reign, granted Leslau personal audiences and safe passage throughout his kingdom.

The second encounter was with the Ethiopian Jews or Beta Israel, who lowered their ancient muskets and welcomed Leslau to their remote villages. His visit resulted in the first objective report on the community called Falashas

(earlier descriptions by Protestant and Jewish missionaries were colored by their religious agendas) and became the main source book for Israeli officials involved in the migration of Ethiopia's Jews to Israel.

WOLF LESLAU was born in Czeszochowa, Poland, where his mother tongue was Yiddish, and he started studying in a heder at age four. In 1926, he left home with the equivalent of \$5 in his pocket and began his lifelong studies in Semitic languages at the University of Vienna. He moved to Paris in 1931 to pursue his doctorate at the Sorbonne.

The year 1939 promised to be a good one for Wolf and his Viennese wife Charlotte. His first book was published and their first daughter was born. Then the roof fell in.

With the outbreak of World War II, and 10 days after the baby's birth, Leslau was arrested by French police as a stateless person and interned in a camp. He spent the bitter winter of 1939-40 high

in the Pyrenees in a camp where there was no heating and no fires were permitted. Finally, in 1942, Leslau and his family were able to escape to the United States.

At war's end, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and set off for his first field trip to Ethiopia. During the next decade, Leslau produced a stream of scholarly books and articles in English, French, German, Hebrew, and Yiddish.

Leslau also found time for some "fun writing," such as an article on "Mother's Day in Ethiopia," and the commercially successful book *The Fire on the Mountain and Other Ethiopian Stories*, which has been translated into Czech, Romanian and Russian.

In 1955, Leslau began his long association with UCLA, first as professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages in the Classics Department.

Three years later, he became the founding chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages, now one of the

most prestigious in the US.

UCLA records indicate that Leslau officially retired in 1976, but since then his production of scholarly works has continued unabated. His frequent collaborator has been his wife of 65 years, with whom he compiled and edited such books as *African Proverbs: African Folktales and African Poems and Love Songs*.

Leslau figures he has enough material on hand for another five to six books, and eventually he will bequeath his mountainous original research notes to the Hebrew University.

That, he says happily, should be good for many more books and a slew of Ph.D. theses.

The announcement of the honorary Hebrew University degree has already been duly celebrated by Leslau and his "eight women" — his wife, two daughters, four granddaughters and one great-granddaughter. Once in Israel, he will be guest of honor at a reunion of some 50 relatives.

## Tracking down the etymology of Semitic languages

ETHIOPIA embraces four language families, including Wolf Leslau's specialty, Semitic languages. Besides Amharic, the national language of the country, seven distinct Semitic languages are spoken, one of which, Gurage, has 12 different dialects.

Only three of the Semitic languages have written records; the other five have been transmitted orally through folk tales and proverbs, frequently with only a handful of speakers still alive.

In most cases, working from his own phonetic transcriptions or single documents, Leslau has had to work out for himself the structure and grammar of a language and painstakingly compile a vocabulary.

In the resulting dictionaries, Leslau tracks the etymological roots of words in the Ethiopian-Semitic languages and relates them to cognate words in other Semitic languages, such as Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic and Akkadian.

"These studies also help us understand changes in pronunciation — for instance, why the original differences in sounds between taf and tet, and alef and ayin, have disappeared in modern Hebrew," says Leslau.

His accomplishments in two of the Semitic languages illustrate the scope and depth of his research. One is the *Etymological Dictionary of Gurage*, an epochal work compiled in precomputer days and consisting of 2,802 pages in three volumes. It remains a treasure trove for Semitic-language scholars.

If Leslau opened up Gurage to fellow researchers, he closed the book on another language, Gafat. "His studies [on Gafat] contain all the primary data which will ever be available to us as he taught the language on the eve of its extinction," wrote a colleague.

The evaluation is not exaggerated since Leslau discovered and recorded, in a remote village near the Blue Nile, the last four persons still using Gafat in daily conversation. T.7.

## Spineless cabbage meets glib toad in legislatures

MOLLY MOORE  
NEW DELHI

"ONCE a rathag, always a rathag." "Unmitigated filthy, rotten teller of untruths." "Imperious, arrogant, glib toad."

Enough already! Is this any way for elected officials to address one another in the chambers of a nation's lawmaking bodies?

Absolutely not, the secretary-general of India's national parliament has decreed. In fact, he said, all this nasty name-calling and vicious verbiage is downright unparliamentary.

To help elected lawmakers in the world's most-populous democracy avoid etiquette pitfalls in moments of political passion, the secretary of India's lower chamber, the Lok Sabha, has compiled 218 pages of comments and statements deemed "unparliamentary expressions."

It lists phrases, terminology and labels forbidden on the floors of legislative chambers.

Who would dare call a colleague a "spineless cabbage," a "tinfoil toad" or a "geriatric Bible basher?"

"No member would utter such words intentionally," said Vinay Bhatnagar, assistant director of public relations for the Lok Sabha.

"Unparliamentary expressions are uttered only in the heat of the moment."

Bhatnagar is philosophical about the antics of his country's elected officials: "Forty years in the life of a nation is very little. Gradually, they will attain a certain level of maturity — maybe 100 years."

Meanwhile the revised and updated edition of *Unparliamentary Expressions* is here to help guide lawmakers through the oratory morass of the heated moment.

REFERENCES TO animals prove by far the most popular of the prohibited slurs.

The proper parliamentarian should never accuse a colleague of "growling and grunting like a whale with a bellyache" or call a seatmate a "retardate worm" or a "disgraceful reptile."

Whether an expression is allowed can depend on context. "Dog" should not be used with

reference to a member and should not be used even for oneself. "But 'going to the dogs' is not unparliamentary when used with reference to matters other than members."

Every phrase in the book was uttered on the floor of a legislative body and ruled out of order by a chief parliamentarian, according to the authors.

The writers culled through rulings made by dozens of parliamentarians in India and throughout what was once the British empire and beyond. They have discovered that political bombast knows no borders.

From one Australian senator in reference to another: "I thought I asked him to stay in the car and bark at strangers, not to come yapping at me."

And from the Yukon: "If the minister had Pinocchio's nose, it would be so long that 500 Yukon ravens could roost on it."

Lawmakers should be particularly careful when assessing their colleagues' life-styles and appearances, according to the guidelines.

"All the member is concerned about is growing opium poppies, and from the look of him, sometimes it seems he has tried a few samples," was ruled not acceptable, nor was, "Apply your mind, if you have any."

Where will it all end?

ALTHOUGH THE Lok Sabha and other legislative bodies in the country have the authority to condemn or reprimand errant word-smiths, spokesman Bhatnagar said punishment is seldom meted out. "The chair can ask the member to withdraw his words," Bhatnagar said.

If the member refuses to apologize, the words are simply expunged from the written record — but that's only if the stenographers spot them in the reams of daily transcripts.

But another censor may be on the way to cleaning up legislative language: live television coverage of the parliament's proceedings.

"The members would not like to be humiliated in front of the audience," Bhatnagar said. "There is every possibility that they would then restrain themselves." (Washington Post)

## Biographers bite the hand that fed them

GRAHAM LORD  
LONDON

BRITISH MP Winston Churchill is furious with the American author of a biography of his 74-year-old mother, Pamela Harriman, who is now America's ambassador in Paris, because the book accuses her of being the "courtesan of the century."

It reveals how she cuckolded Churchill's father, Randolph, by several affairs during the war and concentrates on the many rich and influential lovers who have helped her reach her present pinnacle of wealth and power.

"Through a series of targeted relationships and liaisons," the author writes, "and always keeping her eye on her ultimate goal of staying close to the center of power, she makes it in every sense of the word."

Churchill is probably none too pleased, either, with the Greek millionaire and *Spectator* magazine columnist Taki Theodoracopoulos, who has claimed that Pamela Harriman "knows more about rich men's ceilings than anyone else."

"The book is a vicious exercise in character assassination of my mother and everyone connected with her," says Churchill, who wants parts suppressed when it is published in Britain in September. Harriman is said to be "dis-traught" about the book, *Life of*

the Party, but the fact is that she has indeed had a remarkably impressive list of powerful lovers, from Aly Khan and Frank Sinatra to Gianni Agnelli, Averell Harriman, Ed Murrow, Lord Portal and Elie de Rothschild.

Even worse, the irony is that it was Harriman who recruited the book's author, Christopher Ogden — a *Time* journalist and biographer of Lady Thatcher — to ghost her autobiography, which was meant to concentrate on her public achievements, because she wanted to forestall another book which she feared was going to rake muck about her private life.

Ogden claims he was to share 50 percent of the proceeds of this ego trip, that he had started work and she had given him 40 hours of interviews but then changed her mind and canceled the project without paying him any compensation for the lost \$1.5 million publisher's advance. Only then, he says, did he decide to rake ahead and write his own book.

Harriman is not alone in coming to regret authorizing a book about herself. The Princess of Wales, for instance, must surely have serious doubts about allowing friends to help Andrew Morton write the

book that finally destroyed her marriage.

GRAHAM GREENE authorized Prof. Norman Sherry to write his biography, thinking Sherry would be discreet.

"I trust him," Greene said before he discovered what Sherry was up to.

"He's not a scandal writer and he's not out to break other people's privacies. If I have an adventure with a woman, is her privacy to be broken because he's found some letters? I consider that there's a copyright in the private life of other people."

Greene, who had always been the most secretive of men and resisted other biographers, was appalled when Sherry's first volume was published in 1989, revealing that he had often paid for the services of prostitutes and had particularly relished "the seedy, the sordid, the sexual and the deviant."

"He was shocked by it," Sherry says, "by the love letters and the discoveries I'd made. I stopped writing it for six months because he didn't like it."

Marlene Dietrich encouraged her daughter Maria Riva to write her life story, but was horrified to

read it and began dictating her own version in reply.

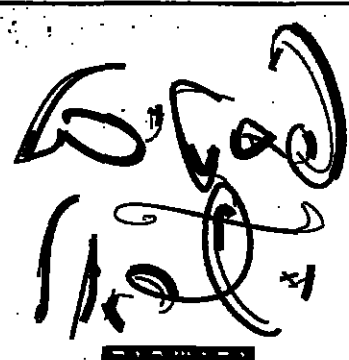
Daphne du Maurier's son and two daughters authorized Margaret Forster's biography of their mother and were distressed by the revelations about her lesbianism. They did not try to prevent publication because their mother had believed that any biography should try to tell "all truth."

Every proper biography is bound to include some material the subject might not welcome. Nowadays there are so many books about living subjects that biography has not just added a new terror to death: It is clambering out of the grave and shaking its gory locks at the living.

One recent victim was Sir Stephen Spender, who was so incensed by Hugh David's unauthorized biography of him that he wrote a 40-page rebuttal and lodged it with the British Library for the benefit of historians.

"It is time for some kind of public discussion or debate about the ethics of biographers," Spender wrote, calling some biographers "parasite hypocrites."

The problem for most living biographies is that it is only human to be secretly pleased if someone wants to write your life story — and by the time you read the thing it is too late: The ego has landed. (The Daily Telegraph)



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# Islamic terror disabling Algerian policy, society

JONATHAN C. RANDAL  
ALGIERS

ENDING a two-month lull, Islamic insurgents in the third year of a bloody struggle to turn Algeria into an Islamic republic have resumed attacks against government targets from barracks to troop convoys, dashing President Liamine Zoual's hopes of quelling the rebellion by a combination of force and dialogue.

The country, North Africa's largest and endowed with oil and gas riches, seems headed for more low-grade violence as a majority of the population persistently refuses to choose between the Islamic underground and an army-based government seeking to preserve the secular state that emerged when Algeria won independence from France in 1962.

The rebels' renewed military operations have undercut Zoual's innovative twin-track policy, designed to crack down on guerrilla activity while initiating controversial contacts with jailed leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front. As a result, a stalemate appears to have set in nearly 29 months after the army precipitated the conflict by canceling Algeria's first free multiparty elections when the Islamic Front seemed headed for victory.

The attacks also tarnished government success in winning support from international financial institutions and

creditor governments for rescheduling Algeria's crushing \$26 billion foreign debt, devaluing an overvalued currency by 40 percent and adopting its command economy to market forces.

Coupled with the failure of Zoual's initial contacts with Islamic Front leaders, the surge in fighting has heightened concerns in Paris, Madrid, Rome and Washington about Algeria's potential disintegration and repercussions in nearby southern Europe, already the main destination for thousands of Algerian emigrants.

In an apparent hedging of bets that has troubled Algerian officials, US diplomats in Washington said the Clinton administration has initiated contacts of its own with Islamic Front representatives. But Foreign Minister Mohammed Saleh Dembri, citing Russia as an example, argued in an interview that Algeria deserves the same special treatment as other countries making a transition away from single-party politics and command economies.

As if to underline their staying power and ability to strike seemingly at will, in the past two weeks Moslem guerrillas have killed dozens of army draftees, often by slitting their throats, in widely separated parts of the country.

Despite an official news blackout, key Algerians and foreign diplomats report-

ed clashes at Telagh, 50 miles south of the western port city of Oran; in Tenes, on the Mediterranean coast 75 miles west of Algiers, the capital; in Medea, 50 miles south of Algiers; and around the port of Jijel, nearly 200 miles to the east of the capital.

Diplomats said the insurgents' operations were only the most spectacular incidents in day-in, day-out violence in which the terrified citizenry is cut down by Islamic killers or shadowy government death squads conducting summary executions in random reprisal.

Although information from within the Islamic movement is sparse, specialists here say they are convinced the imprisoned Islamic Front leadership cannot direct the smaller, more radical Armed Islamic Group, led by veterans of the Afghanistan war, and may not be in total control of the Islamic Front's own military wing, the Armed Islamic Movement.

Because of Algeria's government censorship, no official casualty statistics are published, apparently for fear of panicking the country's 27 million citizens and its neighbors on both sides of the Mediterranean. Often the only widely pub-

lized deaths are those of prominent citizens, such as the rector of one of Algiers University's campuses, who was assassinated this week.

But educated guesses suggest that some 4,000 Algerians were killed in the first two years of strife and that in the last few months the accelerating toll has reached up to 40 fatalities daily, including many civilians.

Foreigners have been specifically targeted since September. Thirty-seven have been killed by Islamic extremists, provoking the departure of most of the foreign community and discouraging desperately needed investment from abroad.

Foreigners still here lead circumscribed lives, often without their families, who have been sent abroad for safety. Diplomats rarely leave their embassy grounds. Other foreigners constantly vary their movements and do not stray far from neighborhoods reputed to be safe.

Algiers streets, clogged with car traffic and strolling pedestrians during the day, are generally deserted by nightfall, well before the curfew, from 11:30 p.m. to 4 a.m., takes effect.

Further sapping Algerian society is the flight abroad of thousands of doctors, lawyers, architects, professors, journalists, managers, engineers and others who considered themselves likely targets for Islamic assassins.

Timid hopes of initiating meaningful peace negotiations between the army and the Islamic Front foundered late last winter. The failure has frustrated many mainstream Algerians' dreams of reconciling moderate political Islam with secular institutions.

Zoual's midwinter decision to meet jailed Islamic Front leaders Ali Benhaj and Abassi Madani in Blida prison outside Algiers broke a taboo. But it frightened many in the so-called democratic parties representing educated, westernized Algerians. They feared the army and Islamic Front might cut a deal excluding their rival constituencies, often disorganized but important.

Two of these parties won seats in the first round of the 1991 elections before the second round was canceled, although the two parties finished far behind the Islamic Front. They are the Socialist Forces Front, strong among the ethnic Kabyle minority, and the National Liberation Front, which monopolized power after Algeria's independence from France but has tried to move to-

ward democracy over the last half-dozen years.

The 150,000-man army, made up overwhelmingly of conscripts, is widely viewed as the last institutional bastion of the secular state, even by critics who bemoan its lack of imagination, denounce its human rights violations and say they wish it would negotiate a settlement with its Islamic adversaries.

Whatever its shortcomings, the army has confounded predictions of inevitable collapse. These were first made after key generals violated Algeria's institutional legitimacy by forcing then-President Chadli Benjedid from office and canceling the elections in January 1992, reversing what had been a limited but noticeable move toward increased democracy.

Nonetheless, conversations with politicians, military men, former cabinet ministers, doctors, business people, housewives, analysts, journalists and diplomats revealed a profound pessimism about the future. In one measure of the atmosphere, all refused to allow their names to be published.

An industrialist summed up a widespread feeling of passive uneasiness, noting, "Algeria is going to have to live with this conflict just as Northern Ireland lives with the IRA and Spain puts up with ETA [Basque separatists]." (The Washington Post)

## Aqaba harbors hopes of boosting business

AQABA (Reuters) - After years of rising investment but falling demand, Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba hopes for a future as a key trade conduit to a peaceful, prosperous Middle East, including Israel.

With an even shorter Red Sea coastline than Jordan, Israel has squeezed five-star hotels around the small port of Eilat. If economics rather than politics dictate, Aqaba's facilities could easily meet Israel's shipping needs.

"There hasn't been serious talking about it, but if there is peace everything is possible. The sky is the limit," Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, director-general for Jordan's only outlet to the sea, said. Mahasneh is involved in the talks with Israel.

"Business is for everyone to pick up. I think we would have an excess of capacity that could take anything coming in."

The port is pinning hope on increasing its share of imports to other neighbors. "We are talking about a wide market in the Arab world," Mahasneh said beside the docks stretching south from Aqaba. "There are no limits to where you would import or export."

Mahasneh reels off facilities installed over the past decade: specialized ports for cement and oil, mechanized handling of grain, a modern container port, more warehouses and plans for a new passenger terminal. New roads bypass Aqaba and speed goods to neighboring countries.

"I think we can easily work at 30 million tons a year," said the lifelong resident of the ancient Red Sea town. "We are working at 30 percent of our capacity."

Jordan blamed that situation mainly on the inspections of Aqaba-bound ships by the US-led flotilla that has enforced UN trade sanctions on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

King Hussein's threat to boycott Middle East peace talks unless the "siege" was lifted produced US acceptance in April of a compromise that will replace naval searches with land inspection by a neutral body, Lloyd's List.

Once a contract is signed between Lloyd's and the Jordanian government - expected this month - sea searches are to end.

Although only a few dozen ships were refused entry to Aq-

aba, the cost was high. Ships were delayed and had to reduce cargoes to allow easy searches, insurance rates rose and shipping companies pushed up charges when half the lines stopped coming.

Aqaba is now counting on a new Middle East. Peace talks hold the promise of ending nearly half a century of conflict.

Iraq remains under UN sanctions, but eventually Iraqi oil also will again flow out and imports in. Syria, which has quietly undergone an economic shift toward the private sector, could be a new customer for Aqaba. The port even hopes to ship Asian goods to Lebanon, which is rebuilding after years of civil war.

It will not, of course, mean automatic prosperity for Aqaba even if a peaceful Middle East emerges.

But Mahasneh, a marine biologist before his current role, is confident. He says high productivity in Aqaba means it can undercut competition from Lebanon's and Syria's Mediterranean ports, certainly on any goods arriving from Asia. He thinks it can even import European products more cheaply.



Two women in a Cairo court hold the son of one of 17 Moslem militants accused of trying to kill Egypt's interior minister. (AP)

## Egyptians have mixed views on militants

JONATHAN WRIGHT  
CAIRO

A branch of the Nile about a stone's throw wide separates the leafy island suburb of Zamalek from the beginnings of the Imbaba slums in northwestern Cairo.

The gap between the wealthy matrons of Zamalek and the angry young men of Imbaba is rather wider.

While Egyptians at the top of the social hierarchy anguish about the wave of political violence, some at the bottom of the heap see salvation in the Moslem militant movement fighting the government with bombs and bullets.

Between the two, political analysts say, stands a vast body of floating voters, critical of corruption and political stagnation but unconvinced that Islam alone is the solution.

The Egyptian government does not permit political opinion polls and few people believe that parliamentary elections are an accurate gauge of the mood of the nation.

In this vacuum, it is anyone's guess how much support there is for the Gama'a al-Islamiya, the militant movement which two years ago this month launched a

campaign of violence to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

But the contrast between the views at the two extremes is clear enough, as is the ambivalence of many in the middle.

The government strongly discourages comparisons, but the successes of Moslem radicals in Iran and Algeria are prominent points of reference in drawing-room conversation.

"They look so awful, these Algerian men with beards and hard faces," said one society lady. "Egypt must never go that way."

Stories abound in high society of how militants have veiled their infant daughters, how obsessed they are with the minutiae of Islamic ritual and how they tell their followers that in Paradise they will have hundreds of concubines.

"They worry which side they should sleep on, or with which foot first they should enter a room. It's madness," said the decollete wife of a

senior government official.

Among those in the affluent set, many accept the government line that unnamed foreign powers hostile to Egypt are a major force behind recruiting, training and financing the Moslem militants.

They tend to put their trust in the police to protect their status and interests from Islamic revolution, even at the cost of turning a blind eye to police abuses.

"Human rights are a luxury Egypt cannot afford," said a government official who declined to be named.

"As far as I'm concerned, the police should go in and shoot the lot of them. That would put a stop to the problem," said an Egyptian holding a senior position with a US bank in Cairo.

Moving down the social scale, opinions begin to diverge.

Those with a stake in tourism, which directly or indirectly employed hundreds of thousands, have reacted to the political violence as they might to a natural disaster which neither they nor anyone else could have prevented.

In all, three foreigners have been killed and more than 30 wounded in the militant campaign against tourism. More than 320 people have been killed in two years in the wider conflict between Gama'a and the government.

But some of the poor are indifferent to the damage to the tourist trade because they do not believe the revenue has ever trickled down in their direction.

"It's the fat cats who benefit. Why should we care?" said a worker in a public sector company in the industrial and heavily polluted suburb of Helwan, a place tourists rarely visit.

For the militants, the Western

tourists they shoot at and try to scare away are just pawns in a bigger game.

"You have to see it in context. The warnings to foreigners are a result of government pressure on Gama'a by not letting them preach for God and for the promotion of virtue and prevention of vice," said a Gama'a preacher in Imbaba.

Intellectuals and the remnants of the old left are largely detached observers, lamenting missed opportunities and putting most of the blame for the violence on economic deprivation.

But they recognize that the solutions they advocate - such as employment schemes, counter-propaganda and the elimination of corruption - may not be speedy enough to stop the rot.

Middle-class Islamists share some of the same views but add that the violence is also a reaction to restrictions on political action and Islamic activism.

The government has never legalized an overtly Islamist political party on the grounds it would exacerbate tensions with Christians and no party should claim to speak in the name of religion.

At the militant extreme, the picture is black-and-white. In the militants' view, the system of government is profane and the rulers are unbelievers who may legitimately be assassinated.

This message clearly has an appeal in the slums of Imbaba where, during the past fasting month of Ramadan, bearded men made their way before dawn through streets strewn with rubbish to seek solace in communal readings of the Koran.

"Anyone who does not rule in accordance with God's revelation [the Koran] is an infidel," said the Imbaba preacher. "Islam has its enemies and Islam must fight back." (Reuters)

## Saddam chops hands to cut crime

BAGHDAD - Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who last week named himself prime minister to combat widespread crime and economic hardship, this week ordered Islamic-style amputations as punishment for those convicted of car theft and robbery.

Babel, the newspaper of Saddam's eldest son Uday, meanwhile, urged the government to reintroduce a law allowing a man to kill an adulterous wife or sister without fear of prosecution.

Iraqi newspapers said Saddam's decree called for anyone convicted of stealing to have his right hand amputated. Thieves convicted for a second time risk amputation of "the left leg from the foot joint."

"The sentence will be death instead of amputation if the crime of theft is perpetrated by a person, openly or discreetly carrying a weapon, or in cases in which death results from the crime."

Amputations will not be carried out if the value of the stolen property is less than 5,000 dinars (\$12 on the widely used black market), if the robbery takes place between a husband and wife or close relatives, or if the perpetrator is a minor, it added.

Iraq, while predominantly Moslem, is a secular state. But Saddam since last year has been waging a spiritual and religious campaign that has included making teaching of the Koran compulsory in schools.

Crime and official corruption

have soared as Iraq's economy has crumbled under the weight of UN sanctions imposed after Saddam invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Last year, 36,000 cars were stolen and few recovered, according to newspaper accounts. The sanctions ban most trade with Iraq, depriving it of much-needed oil revenue.

Since reclaiming the post of prime minister on May 29, Saddam has made several moves to rein in Iraq's problems, including harsh warnings to his government against sloth.

The Iraqi News Agency said that since Saddam took over as prime minister, food prices had fallen by up to 50 percent.

(News agencies)

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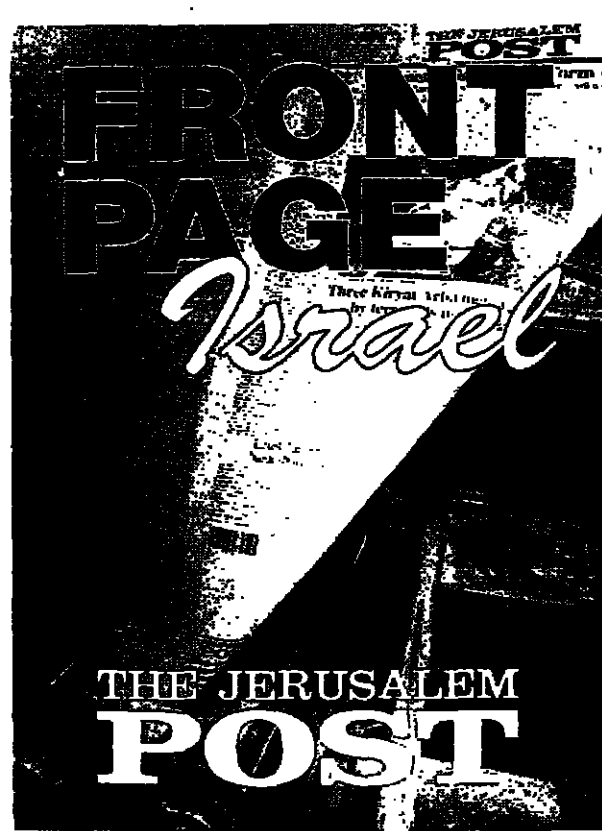
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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1994

## New \$157m. equity fund set to launch this week

THE Renaissance Fund, a new \$157 million foreign equity fund for investment here, is being officially launched this week in Tel Aviv.

The private investment fund includes investors from the US, Europe and Canada and will be focusing on private investments in Israel and Israel-related companies across a range of industries.

The fund is aimed at large-scale investment.

"We will do no deal smaller than \$5m.," said Jonathan Kolber, president and CEO of Claridge Israel, which founded the fund last year. Kolber also serves as chairman of the board of directors of

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

RM Renaissance Management Ltd.

The fund's large investors can co-invest in deals that exceed the maximum amount in which the fund can invest, he explained yesterday.

He said he was pleased with the response to the creation of the fund and the amount of investment - some \$137m. from abroad and \$20m. from here - had far exceeded expectations.

The fund is managed by Stockton Partners, whose principals are

Harvey Krueger, Alan Batckin, Hildy Shandell and Adi Raviv.

Krueger, the chairman of Stockton Partners and a senior managing director with Lehman Brothers, told reporters the current stock market dive may encourage companies who have been planning to raise capital through the markets to turn to funds like Renaissance.

The "sobering" mood of the stock market would allow the fund to "buy at reasonable prices," he said.

Kolber said the banking sector was of interest to the fund. He also said he would not rule out bidding for Bank Hapoalim.

FEDERATION of Israeli Chambers of Commerce President Danny

Gillerman yesterday called on the government to help restore confidence in the economy to avoid a spillover of the stock market's sustained losses on other sectors in the economy.

Gillerman appealed to the government, despite a positive chamber survey, which showed that the stock market crisis has not affected economic activity.

According to him, the government should take urgent action to lower interest rates, speed up privatization, bring down housing prices and expand foreign ex-

change and investment liberalization.

The survey shows that imports increased significantly last month. Car imports went up 25 percent to 9,780 from 7,595 in April. Refrigerator imports also registered similar increases last month.

Retail food sales rose 10% in real terms. Based on data from the first five days of this month, June is also expected to turn out to be a good month.

Chamber economists attributed the positive trend in the economy to the extraordinary wage hikes in

JOSE ROSENFELD

the public sector, which have translated into more consumer spending.

In addition, they note the paradoxical effect of the stock market's fall, which has caused investors to pull out their money and increase their spending.

Apartment sales jumped 17% last month, despite the government's announcement of steps to bring down housing prices.

Turkey sales fell 10% from April due to expanded imports and are expected to remain stable this month.

Upholstery also lost 10% in sales, as middle class consumer purchases dropped significantly. Sales are expected to continue dropping this month.

Plywood sales dropped 10% last month due to the slump in furniture sales and in construction, and are expected to continue falling this month.

Medication sales also fell 10% due to the sharp reduction in purchases from debt-strapped Kupat Holim Clalit.

If enough funding is found for Clalit, then medication sales should pick up this month; otherwise they will fall further.

## Mortgage banks raise interest rates

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE mortgage banks have decided to raise the interest on mortgages 0.25 percent to 0.5% annually in reaction to the recent fall in financial margins.

Mishkan Bank Hapoalim Mortgage Bank decided to raise interest 0.5%, while Tefahot - a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank - plans to raise its rates between 0.25% and 0.5%.

The rise in mortgage rates will come into effect next Wednesday. The other mortgage banks are expected to announce a similar rise in interest rates during the next few days.

The banks managers said mortgage banks have suffered from an erosion in financial margins during the last few months.

Mishkan yesterday announced a reverse mortgage route to help senior citizens and pensioners increase their monthly income.

The bank is offering a monthly income to customers who mortgage their apartments based on the value of the apartment and the payment period. The monthly income, which is linked to the Consumer Price Index, will be given over a five to 10-year period.

## Tefahot predicts escalation in apartment prices will gradually stop

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEFAHOT, the largest mortgage bank in the country, predicts the rise in apartment prices will gradually cease.

The United Mizrahi Bank subsidiary said prices will fall due to the drop in the worthwhileness of investing in real estate at high prices, the rise in private sector apartment building and the expected increase in interest rates on mortgages.

Tefahot said the government's recent approval of the plan to reduce housing prices will be reflected in the medium to long run.

"The last year's rise in apartment prices was an unnecessary bubble, which could have been avoided," Tefahot managing director Uri Wurzbarger said. "The possibility of a crisis in apartment prices was known in advance, in mid-1993, to all factors involved in the sector, government and private."

He said those operating in the real estate sector predicted a

shortage in housing when the government announced its decision to cease public building.

"The difference between the various forecasts was due to the period of the shortage and its intensity, that is how long it would take the private sector to make up for the shortage in housing," Wurzbarger said. "The most common forecast was that in 1993 - 1994 the shortage of apartments will reach 20,000 to 30,000. The rise in apartment prices was due to expectations of a shortage in housing."

## Israel ranks 7th in R&amp;D expenditure

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE national expenditure on civilian research and development (R&D) was NIS 3.6 billion in 1992, ranking the country seventh among the 24 industrialized Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Israel's R&D spending as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) matched that of England at 2.2%.

Local R&D expenditures surpassed those of Holland, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Canada, Iceland, Spain, Ireland and Greece.

Japan's 3.1% topped the list of R&D expenditures, including for defense purposes.

The OECD figures are for 1991, the last report available.

Israel's institutions of higher learning contributed 34% of R&D expenditures, a relatively high proportion compared to the average of 20% in OECD countries.

Local R&D spending on electric and electronic equipment made up 63% of industrial research expenditures, compared to only between 20% to 30% in OECD countries.

By contrast, the machinery sector only spent 2% of industrial R&D compared to between 15% and 30% in other developed nations.

Industrial R&D spending was divided into three major areas in 1991 - electric and electronic equipment, 66%; chemicals and petroleum products, 10% and transportation, 12%.

Local R&D expenditures made up about a fifth of fixed capital formation, excluding housing, and rose 8% in real terms in 1992.

The government funded 37% of R&D expenditures.

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## Business leaders foresee stronger trade ties with China

DAVID BAKER

TRADE ties with China are expected to deepen as diplomatic relations continue to develop, business leaders from both nations said this week.

Li Shifang, economic and commercial counselor at the Chinese Embassy, sounded an upbeat note at a Tel Aviv seminar, entitled "Penetrating the Chinese Market - Step by Step," hosted by *The Jerusalem Post*.

He cited the recent signing of taxation agreements and the frequent visits by trade delegations and government ministers between the two nations.

He pointed to Israel's abilities in the energy, agriculture and telecommunications fields, areas in which Chinese needs help.

He said trade between Israel and China was \$152 million last year, evenly split between both countries and triple the level achieved in 1992, the first year of

relations between Jerusalem and Beijing.

Mu Qing, general manager of Eastern China Enterprises Ltd., a garment manufacturer and exporter, told the *Post* that Israel's free trade agreements with the US and the European Community are attractive to Chinese businesses looking to branch out.

The *Post* recently embarked on a series of Chinese language publications for distribution in China.

*Israel-China Business Opportunities* and *Israel-China Agriculture Today* were published in April and are scheduled to come out again in the summer. Another magazine scheduled for publication in August is *Israel-China Communications*.

The purpose of the magazines is to expose, explore and explain recent Israeli-Chinese commercial developments and the emerging Chinese-Israeli market.

## HEADING TOWARD NEW HORIZONS

The entire international economic system is undergoing reorganization and reorientation. The predominant trend in this process is the formation of centralized trading blocks that counteract increasing globalization and competitiveness. Israeli exports are enjoying the benefits of consistent and rapid growth. Their newly targeted markets have immense potential that must be exhausted. To this end the Ministry of Industry and Trade is offering both the novice and experienced exporter a variety of programs, tools, information and "guidance packages" to assist him and promote exports.

## A. The Foreign Trade Administration

The Foreign Trade Administration acts to improve the provisions of Israel's trade agreements with foreign countries and international organizations. As a result, Israeli exporters compete in foreign markets under improved conditions, while the interests of Israel's economy remain protected. The Administration also operates a network of commercial and economic attachés in both the old and newly-targeted markets.

## B. The Center for Business Promotion

The center raises investment capital for the Israeli market. To this end it furthers co-operation between Israeli and foreign firms.

## C. Commercial Attache's

Israel has a network of commercial and economic attachés deployed worldwide. These professional envoys promote Israel's economic ties abroad, and are available to businessmen and companies for information and assistance in creating international business links.

## D. Preferential International Agreements

Israel is party to numerous trade agreements in the world, both on the bilateral and multilateral levels. These include free-trade agreements with the U.S., the EU and EFTA. Israel is also a full member of GATT.

## E. Penetrating New Markets

The aim is to establish a network of special trade agreements in the Far East, Europe and Latin America.

F. ANIS 217,000,000 Fund Devoted to Boosting Israeli Marketing Abroad. The fund assists exporters in the small, middle, large and beginner categories. It does so by offering counseling and financial aid for the promotion of Israeli products abroad.

Financial aid is provided on the basis of a detailed marketing plan.

## G. The Fund for Product Exposure

The Israel Export Institute, run by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Manufacturers' Association of Israel, assists exporters in every activity related to the promotion of exports. The institute provides counseling at each stage of the export process. In addition, it organizes participation of Israeli exporters in international exhibitions and visits of foreign buyers to Israel. It also produces catalogues for individual manufacturing branches.

## H. The Israel Export Institute

The Israel Export Institute, run by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Manufacturers' Association of Israel, assists exporters in every activity related to the promotion of exports.

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## I. The Industrial Co-Operation Authority

The authority initiates, co-ordinates and plays an active role in all activities that originate in buy-back commitments made by foreign companies to Israel. In addition it encourages the purchase of domestic products by the government.

## J. Foreign Trade Risk Insurance

The exporter is offered a variety of services, such as political-risk insurance, commercial insurance, export credit, etc.

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Key Representative Rates	
	Change
US dollar ...NIS 3.0590	-0.03%
Sterling ...NIS 4.6036	-0.09%
Mark ...NIS 1.8311	+0.01%

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York market indexes	
	Change
DJ Industrial	3758.81
DJ Composite	3758.81
DJ 30	3758.81
DJ 100	3758.81
DJ 200	3758.81
DJ 500	3758.81
DJ 1000	3758.81
DJ 1500	3758.81
DJ 2000	3758.81
DJ 2500	3758.81
DJ 3000	3758.81
DJ 3500	3758.81
DJ 4000	3758.81
DJ 4500	3758.81
DJ 5000	3758.81
DJ 5500	3758.81
DJ 6000	3758.81
DJ 6500	3758.81
DJ 7000	3758.81
DJ 7500	3758.81
DJ 8000	3758.81
DJ 8500	3758.81
DJ 9000	3758.81
DJ 9500	3758.81
DJ 10000	3758.81

Other stock market indexes	
	Change
FTSE 100	3004.7
Nikkei 225	12142.5
DAX	12142.5
Hong Kong Hang Seng	9247.85

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 100	12142.5
TASEX 200	12142.5
TASEX 300	12142.5
TASEX 400	12142.5
TASEX 500	12142.5
TASEX 600	12142.5
TASEX 700	12142.5
TASEX 800	12142.5
TASEX 900	12142.5
TASEX 1000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 1100	12142.5
TASEX 1200	12142.5
TASEX 1300	12142.5
TASEX 1400	12142.5
TASEX 1500	12142.5
TASEX 1600	12142.5
TASEX 1700	12142.5
TASEX 1800	12142.5
TASEX 1900	12142.5
TASEX 2000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 2100	12142.5
TASEX 2200	12142.5
TASEX 2300	12142.5
TASEX 2400	12142.5
TASEX 2500	12142.5
TASEX 2600	12142.5
TASEX 2700	12142.5
TASEX 2800	12142.5
TASEX 2900	12142.5
TASEX 3000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 3100	12142.5
TASEX 3200	12142.5
TASEX 3300	12142.5
TASEX 3400	12142.5
TASEX 3500	12142.5
TASEX 3600	12142.5
TASEX 3700	12142.5
TASEX 3800	12142.5
TASEX 3900	12142.5
TASEX 4000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 4100	12142.5
TASEX 4200	12142.5
TASEX 4300	12142.5
TASEX 4400	12142.5
TASEX 4500	12142.5
TASEX 4600	12142.5
TASEX 4700	12142.5
TASEX 4800	12142.5
TASEX 4900	12142.5
TASEX 5000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 5100	12142.5
TASEX 5200	12142.5
TASEX 5300	12142.5
TASEX 5400	12142.5
TASEX 5500	12142.5
TASEX 5600	12142.5
TASEX 5700	12142.5
TASEX 5800	12142.5
TASEX 5900	12142.5
TASEX 6000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 6100	12142.5
TASEX 6200	12142.5
TASEX 6300	12142.5
TASEX 6400	12142.5
TASEX 6500	12142.5
TASEX 6600	12142.5
TASEX 6700	12142.5
TASEX 6800	12142.5
TASEX 6900	12142.5
TASEX 7000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 7100	12142.5
TASEX 7200	12142.5
TASEX 7300	12142.5
TASEX 7400	12142.5
TASEX 7500	12142.5
TASEX 7600	12142.5
TASEX 7700	12142.5
TASEX 7800	12142.5
TASEX 7900	12142.5
TASEX 8000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 8100	12142.5
TASEX 8200	12142.5
TASEX 8300	12142.5
TASEX 8400	12142.5
TASEX 8500	12142.5
TASEX 8600	12142.5
TASEX 8700	12142.5
TASEX 8800	12142.5
TASEX 8900	12142.5
TASEX 9000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 9100	12142.5
TASEX 9200	12142.5
TASEX 9300	12142.5
TASEX 9400	12142.5
TASEX 9500	12142.5
TASEX 9600	12142.5
TASEX 9700	12142.5
TASEX 9800	12142.5
TASEX 9900	12142.5
TASEX 10000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 10100	12142.5
TASEX 10200	12142.5
TASEX 10300	12142.5
TASEX 10400	12142.5
TASEX 10500	12142.5
TASEX 10600	12142.5
TASEX 10700	12142.5
TASEX 10800	12142.5
TASEX 10900	12142.5
TASEX 11000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
	Change
TASEX 11100	12142.5
TASEX 11200	12142.5
TASEX 11300	12142.5
TASEX 11400	12142.5
TASEX 11500	12142.5
TASEX 11600	12142.5
TASEX 11700	12142.5
TASEX 11800	12142.5
TASEX 11900	12142.5
TASEX 12000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 12100	12142.5
TASEX 12200	12142.5
TASEX 12300	12142.5
TASEX 12400	12142.5
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TASEX 12600	12142.5
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TASEX 12800	12142.5
TASEX 12900	12142.5
TASEX 13000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 13100	12142.5
TASEX 13200	12142.5
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TASEX 13700	12142.5
TASEX 13800	12142.5
TASEX 13900	12142.5
TASEX 14000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 14100	12142.5
TASEX 14200	12142.5
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 16100	12142.5
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 19700	12142.5
TASEX 19800	12142.5
TASEX 19900	12142.5
TASEX 20000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 20100	12142.5
TASEX 20200	12142.5
TASEX 20300	12142.5
TASEX 20400	12142.5
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TASEX 20600	12142.5
TASEX 20700	12142.5
TASEX 20800	12142.5
TASEX 20900	12142.5
TASEX 21000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 21100	12142.5
TASEX 21200	12142.5
TASEX 21300	12142.5
TASEX 21400	12142.5
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TASEX 21600	12142.5
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TASEX 21800	12142.5
TASEX 21900	12142.5
TASEX 22000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 22600	12142.5
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TASEX 22800	12142.5
TASEX 22900	12142.5
TASEX 23000	12142.5

Israeli stock market indexes	
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TASEX 23200	12142.5
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes	
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Israeli stock market indexes
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# OECD spells out nine-point strategy to combat international unemployment

PARIS (Reuters) — The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) recommended the following nine-point plan to beat unemployment in its 25 member states, all leading industrial countries.

It made the proposals, much abbreviated here, under the heading "Main planks of a strategy" in its long-awaited "Jobs Study" published yesterday.

The Paris-based think tank stressed that the doses of each prescription would vary from country to country, but that each faced broadly the same problems.

It added that employers, trade unions and individual workers might in some cases bear more of the responsibility for putting it in

place than governments.

**MACROECONOMIC POLICY:** Aim for the most rapid cyclical economic growth while keeping the lid on inflation and holding budget deficits in check.

**RESEARCH AND KNOW-HOW SHARING:** Invest in scientific research and make sure firms have access to know-how, both nationally and internationally, while making sure researchers don't lose out to free-loading copycats.

**FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS:** Let workers and employers work out working time that suits them, encourage part-time working and make retirement more flexible. But don't legislate to cut hours in order to ration out work.

**FREE ENTERPRISE:** Make it cheaper and easier to start businesses and help small firms with training, insurance, research, access to credit and so on — without distorting competition.

**ACTIVE LABOR MARKET:** Manage labor exchanges, benefit payments and job schemes as one system. Make sure benefit claimants keep looking for jobs. Encourage private labor exchanges and better training for the unemployed. Subsidize jobs for groups most hit by unemployment but set pay rates in job creation schemes below those for regular work.

**TRAINING:** Improve schooling from nursery upward, especially for the poor. Encourage apprenticeships and other ways to get people

from school into work. Set a low "training wage" to tempt firms to employ youngsters.

Encourage adult education and training for established workers.

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS:** Shorten the period during which people can claim unemployment benefit. Link long-term benefits to a continued search for work.

Avoid creating poverty traps — where loss of benefits outweighs the gains from getting a job — by having child benefit for all, low taxes on low wages, or benefit supplements for the low-paid.

Tighten up benefit schemes, partly to weed out scroungers. Make employers pay for laying people off.

## West German economy shows strong first-quarter growth

BONN (Reuters) — The west German economy showed strong growth in the first quarter of 1994 and unemployment edged only slightly higher in May, according to official figures released yesterday.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right coalition, which faces elections on October 16, hailed the statistics as evidence that the country was well on the way to recovery after one of its worst post-war recessions.

The Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden said west German gross domestic product grew 0.5 percent in the first three months of 1994 from the previous quarter and was up 2.1% from a year earlier.

The figures were boosted by special factors such as better weather, which helped the construction industry, and early Easter holidays, which gave a boost to private consumption.

"Nevertheless, the results show that the west German economy is on the road to recovery," the office added.

West German unemployment edged higher in May to a seasonally adjusted 2.599 million from 2.590 million the previous month, the Federal Labor Office reported. The rise of 9,000 was less than half comparable levels last year.

The unemployment rate, which is based on unadjusted figures, slipped to 8.1% from 8.4% in April. This was well up on the May 1993 figure of 6.9%.

In former communist east Germany, unadjusted joblessness fell to 1.159 million from 1.216 million in April, a jobless rate of 15.4% compared with 16.2%.

"Although seasonal influences were the main factor in the drop in

unemployment, the negative effects of recession in the west are slowly easing," said Bernhard Jagoda, president of the Nuremberg-based Labor Office.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said the economy might grow by more than the 1% he has forecast for 1994.

"Against the background of the better than expected start to the year and the continued upward trend of indicators pointing to the future, a more favorable development is certainly possible," he said.

Private economists were less upbeat, saying continued weakness in personal consumption remained the main obstacle to a fully-fledged recovery.

First-quarter growth was largely due to strong seasonal growth in construction, but personal consumption was flat, hit by low wage rises, higher social security contributions and rising unemployment.

Construction was expected to be less strong in the second quarter and export growth could flag due to the strong mark.

Wike Groenenberg of Salomon Brothers in London said she expected full-year growth of around 1%, mainly on the back of exports and slowly expanding investment.

"Disposable income has fallen so much that consumption will indeed depress GDP slightly," she said.

Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer in Frankfurt, said the growth figures were not quite as strong as they appeared.

"If private consumption failed to grow in the first quarter, then things look bad for the rest of the year," he said.

## Sprint in talks with French, German companies

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Reuters) — Sprint Corp., only a day after the collapse of a planned merger with computer services giant Electronic Data Systems Inc., said yesterday it is discussing what it called "a global partnership" with France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom.

"The partnership being discussed would concentrate mainly on providing seamless, global telecommunications services to business customers," it said.

Sprint said the discussions also contemplate France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom would invest in Sprint through the purchase of a new class of Sprint common stock and would be represented on Sprint's board of directors.

Terms of the possible minority equity purchase were not disclosed.

While the parties have "reached concurrence on many principles," Sprint said some issues remain unresolved and "there is no certainty that agreement will be reached or that any transaction would be consummated."

It added that government approvals would be needed in both the United States and Europe, and that Sprint shareholders would need to approve the issuance of a new class of stock.

Sprint stock was up 75 cents at \$38.75 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

EDS and Sprint had viewed a merger as a way to give business customers computer systems that could send voice, data and video communications to customers, suppliers and affiliates across borders.

The merger would have created a company with \$20 billion in sales and \$30 billion in market value.



European Community economic commission member Sir Leon Brittan (left) is pictured with US trade representative Mickey Kantor, before the opening of a two-day meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development yesterday. (AP)

## Banesto heads accused of fraud, report says

MADRID (AP) — A Bank of Spain investigation accuses top managers at Banesto bank of fraud that hid the depth of its financial troubles before authorities ousted the bank's board late last year, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The daily *El Pais* said central bank investigators found that Banesto's former management, including ex-chairman Mario Conde, were responsible for irregular accounting practices, using third parties to mask financial operations and obstructing Bank of Spain inspectors who monitored Banesto.

Bank of Spain spokesman Jose Luis Pellicer said the central bank's investigation had found "violations of banking norms" by Banesto's ex-management. He declined to confirm or deny details of *El Pais*'s report.

Pellicer said the central bank had sent a draft of its investigation to Conde and other managers who were ousted when the Bank of Spain took control of Banesto on December 28.

"The Bank of Spain is waiting for those investigated to respond," Pellicer said.

A Bank of Spain-sponsored bailout plan this winter recapitalized Banesto, which authorities determined had a \$4.4-billion

shortfall in its balance sheet. It was bought at auction in April by rival Banco Santander for \$2.5b.

Bank of Spain investigators will redraft their report after hearing from the accused, Pellicer said. The central bank's legal department then will submit its report to the board of governors, who will pass it on to the Finance Ministry for a final decision.

## Saudi Prince Charming stands to make a royal profit

Eurodisney deal enhances reputation as brilliant businessman

HE has the usual trappings you might expect of a wealthy Saudi prince — a 130-room palace in Riyadh, a Bedouin bodyguard, his own Boeing 727 and one of the world's most luxurious yachts to navigate the waters of the French Riviera.

But Prince Waleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is gaining a reputation as more than a flamboyant royal. The 37-year-old, American-educated prince also is the savvy investor who last week agreed to acquire a \$400 million to \$500 million stake in the struggling French theme park Euro Disney.

If the prince's former investments are any guide, Euro Disney may be poised for a rebound. In 1991, bought an \$800 million stake in the then-staggering financial giant, Citicorp. Though it was considered a risky venture at the time, the prince's \$600m. investment in preferred stock is now worth about \$2 billion, and some investment analysts describe it as one of the most profitable deals of the decade.

The prince, who is a grandson of the founder of Saudi Arabia

and a nephew of King Fahd, also owns a 10 percent interest in the Saks Fifth Avenue department store chain and is working on a deal to take control of Air France's four-star luxury hotel chain, Meridien.

"He is a brilliant financial analyst," said Stephen L. Norris, a partner in the Washington-based Carlyle Group who advised the prince on both the Citicorp and Euro Disney deals.

But others say he is far more than a clever investor.

"He is a rising star in the Middle East," said a Washington lawyer who knows Waleed. He noted that the image of Middle Eastern business executives has been tarnished in recent years by names such as Adnan Khashoggi and Ghaith Pharoan, and that Waleed is a welcome standout among both royals and the Saudi commercial elite.

"His name is magic here be-

cause of his business acumen," said Vernon A. Cassin Jr., a corporate attorney with Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue in Riyadh who has had dealings with the prince.

"But he is also making investments that are strategic, not just opportunistic."

He's a great advertisement for what a responsible young royal family member should be doing — building bridges with business leaders in other countries."

The prince is Western in much of his education and thinking.

After graduating with honors from Menlo Park College in California in a little over two years, he received a master's degree from Syracuse University. He speaks Arabic, English and French fluently and, like some other westernized Saudis, he has only one wife, though his Moslem religion allows him four.

He indulges in the occasional flamboyant gesture. At a birthday

party several years ago for his son, Khalid, for example, the entertainment was provided by the American rapper, Hammer, in the ballroom of the Georges V Hotel in Paris.

Yet for a prince, he lives relatively unostentatiously, according to lawyers, preferring to spend his weekends in the desert when he is home in Saudi Arabia.

Unlike some international investors who rely solely on a team of advisers and bankers to do their deals, the prince is a hands-on investor who frequently flies to New York to talk with Citicorp management and who is intimately involved in the details of his businesses and investments.

His mornings are spent in the chairman's office of the United Commercial Bank of Saudi Arabia, a once-troubled bank he purchased in 1988. It is one of the Middle East's most profitable financial institutions, according to

analysts.

After his midday prayer break, the prince spends the rest of the day in the office of Kingdom Establishment for Trading and Contracting, his diversified holding company that includes interests in real estate, construction, communications, travel and supermarkets in Saudi Arabia.

"I don't know when he sleeps," said Norris. "He often calls me at two or three in the morning Riyadh time. He frequently stays at his office until the markets close in the US, which is midnight Riyadh time." When the details of the Citicorp investment were being worked out, Waleed did not think it would be appropriate for him, as a member of the royal family, to leave his country while it was under attack in the Gulf War, according to Norris. So Waleed spent hours on the telephone with Norris, working on the details.

In the Euro Disney deal, he

waited and watched for many months before making his investment, according to sources.

His cash infusion, which includes a pledge to build a convention center that would draw more tourists and business people during the park's off-season, may mean a turnaround for the company, analysts said.

"It's certainly a good investment. But it will take quite a few years to find out if it's truly a great investment," said Alan Snyder of Snyder Capital Management, who follows Disney.

But the real question may be whether the Disney perks will top those of Citicorp. Through the bank the prince was able to purchase his yacht, the former Trump Princess, when Donald Trump was having financial difficulties. Rechristened "Kingdom" by the prince, the yacht features a helipad, an operating room and a movie studio.

Maybe Disney will provide him with a magic carpet.

(Washington Post)

## US, Japan agree to widen trade talks

PARIS (Reuters) — The United States and Japan, increasingly keen to put an end to their economic wrangling, agreed yesterday to widen trans-Pacific trade talks to include the lucrative financial services sector.

Wasting no time, the two sides — who are talking on the edge of an international economic conference — arranged to open negotiations the very same day in a bid to bridge the trade gap.

"Obviously, we are feeling optimistic about the future," Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said at the annual meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

"We have not been terribly successful in the past [when it comes to trade talks]. We hope that the future is brighter."

Washington has signaled it is all but ready to take whatever it can get from Japan and has jettisoned its all-or-nothing demands.

## Growth stocks return to live up to their name

SOME of Wall Street's long-favorite consumer growth stocks have quietly become the market's leaders again, after two years or more in the doldrums.

Software giant Microsoft, retailer Home Depot and beer king Anheuser-Busch are among the classic 1980s growth issues that have rebounded sharply this year, after tumbling in 1993.

The return of these old favorites is sparking debate over which stocks are likely to lead the next market rally, assuming the bull market that began in 1990 is intact.

In 1992 and 1993, "value" stocks were by far the market's best performers. The value group includes many industrial, financial and utility shares that typically sell for relatively low prices compared to their per-share earnings — hence the term "value."

"Growth" stocks, meanwhile, usually sell for higher prices relative to earnings, but for a reason: As the category name implies, these companies typically boast above-average — and consistent — earnings growth, as opposed to the often-cyclical earnings of value stocks.

Growth stocks had a terrific run between 1989

and 1991, far outperforming value stocks in each of those years. But by the beginning of 1992, the tide turned in favor of value stocks, for two big reasons.

Many growth stocks had become overpriced after their 1989-91 run-up. And when earnings growth for some major drug companies and food companies began to slow in 1992 (victims of health care reform and slower consumer spending, respectively), investors became suspicious of the entire growth-stock universe.

Wall Street began to bet heavily on a turnaround for large industrial companies, as demand for their products increased and as years of cost-cutting translated into vastly improved earnings potential. Financial stocks also surged as interest rates continued to fall.

The end result: Value stocks handily beat growth stocks in 1992 and in 1993, the first time value had back-to-back better years than growth since 1983-84.

Wilshire Associates, which tracks separate growth and value stock indexes, says its value index rose 14 percent in 1992, versus a 5.6% rise in the growth-stock index. In 1993, value rose

12.7% while growth fell 0.8% percent. (All figures are total returns: net price change plus dividend income.)

So far this year, both Wilshire indexes were down about 2% through the end of May. The growth sector has been hurt by continued weakness in some big-name stocks, including Coca-Cola and Wal-Mart. The value sector has suffered from declines in utilities and some major industrial names, such as the Big Three auto stocks.

But measured since last October — when the market began to rally briskly after stagnating for much of 1993 — growth stocks have been outperforming value stocks by a wide margin, says Wilshire Associates analyst Mike Palmer.

From October through May, Wilshire's growth index was up 2.2%, while the value index dropped 5.2%, Palmer says.

Even if you consider only year-to-date performance, the simple fact that growth and value are about even in performance may suggest that investors are less interested in buying value stocks, and perhaps less interested in selling growth stocks as well.

"One could argue that value stocks' outperformance has come to an end," Palmer says.

However, other yardsticks still give value an edge. The Standard & Poor's 500 Inc. growth and value indexes, which split the S&P 500 into the two camps, show value up 0.4% through May and growth down 2.3%.

In any case, it's clear that value is no longer way out in front. And the powerful resurgence this year of classic growth stocks such as Microsoft and Home Depot demonstrates that Wall Street's appetite for its old favorites has improved markedly from 1993.

Why the return to growth stocks? William Dodge, strategist at Dean Witter Reynolds in New York, says growth stocks are benefiting in part because investors realize that at this stage of the economic cycle, "just any old (industrial) stock isn't going to work anymore."

Two years ago, you bought auto stocks because auto sales were still depressed but sure to rebound eventually. Today, after two years of strong sales, it's reasonable to wonder how much better things can get for the auto industry. If you believe auto company earnings will peak in 1995,

you probably aren't going to buy the stocks now.

At the same time, earnings of many classic growth companies have continued to rise at annual rates of 15% or better since 1992, even as the stocks have been dashed.

The result: Price-to-earnings ratios, or P-Es, of growth stocks are in many cases significantly lower today than two years ago. If Wall Street takes an increasingly dim view of the earnings potential in value stocks, investors will naturally look to growth stocks as an alternative. And if they find lowered P-Es on those stocks, the justification for buying them becomes that much greater.

Of course, it may still be too early to say that growth stocks are taking over for value stocks. We may be in a stock-picker's market where some issues in both camps will do well, while the aggregate indexes perform poorly.

But it's worth noting that Wall Street responds to momentum. If more investors begin to perceive that the momentum is shifting back to growth stocks, their rebound could become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

(Los Angeles Times)

## ex closes power on rnover

### ROUNDUP

fraught days. Dealers' short-term and index-linked buying, at higher futures prices in the afternoon, boosted share prices.

The Nikkei average ended at 13,402.71, up 152.21 points, or 1.1%.

**HONG KONG** — Share prices ended sharply lower on futures-linked selling linked to speculation about a government proposal to merge and run down about 10% of the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's

The blue chip Hang Seng index closed down 135.15 points at 4,474.88.

**SYDNEY** — Buying in underdone shares helped the Australian share index bounce off its lows, but it quickly closed down on the news that the All Ordinaries index had fallen 2.3 points to 2,002.50.

**CHICAGO** — South American shares ended solidly higher, but sentiment was mixed as a move above \$300 a barrel and on hopes that Iraq would be in a state of war.

The Chicago Index was up 1.3 and the Industrial Index was up 0.8.

The gold index was up 0.8 and the oil index was up 0.8.

The copper index was up 0.8 and the silver index was up 0.8.

The platinum index was up 0.8 and the palladium index was up 0.8.

The zinc index was up 0.8 and the nickel index was up 0.8.

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The titanium index was up 0.8 and the vanadium index was up 0.8.

The niobium index was up 0.8 and the molybdenum index was up 0.8.

The cobalt index was up 0.8 and the manganese index was up 0.8.

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The cobalt index was



SPORTS

# Victory for Maccabi in untidy final

DEREK FATTAL

MACCABI Tel Aviv won the State Cup last night with a 2-0 victory over rivals Hapoel Tel Aviv at the National Stadium Ramat Gan in a lackluster contest marred by poor passing and rough play.

Two second-half goals, the first by Itzik Zohar from a free kick after 49 minutes, and the second by Nir Klinger in the 71st, captured the trophy that eluded Maccabi in the last two seasons, losing in the final to Hapoel Petah Tikva and Maccabi Haifa.

Referee Haim Lefkowitz pulled out the first yellow card after just seconds of play when Maccabi's Zohar attempted a wild two-legged challenge against Hapoel captain Haim Revivo.

Revivo was himself booked in the 18th minute following a crude lunge that sent Avi Cohen tumbling. Lefkowitz was to show the yellow card on a further two occasions as both sides displayed a cynical approach to the showpiece game.

The first half provided precious little in the way of entertainment. Passes consistently went astray as both midfielders failed to present their respective forwards with the ball.

Maccabi fullback Ya'acov Hillel caused Red hearts to flutter in the 24th minute with a powerful long shot that looked on target until it

was headed out of harm's way. Just before Hillel's attempt, teammate Noam Shoam pounced on a loose ball in the area but swung his effort well wide of goal.

Maccabi monopolized possession as the first period progressed, but Hapoel looked to irritate on the break with the scoresheet even. Maccabi was clearly ahead on points. In the second half however, Maccabi translated its domination of the play into goals.

The first strike came in the 49th minute when Hapoel's Alon Ophir committed an ugly challenge on Zohar. Zohar took the free kick himself and drove a wicked curling shot from just under 30 meters around the three-man wall into the top left corner of the net. Despite a brave dive, Baku was left clutching air.

A goal down, the Hapoel players attempted to open up their game, but found it difficult to release the ball to Revivo, their midfield inspiration, who was being shut out due to some excellent close marking by Maccabi defender Alon Brumer.

As the final whistle blew the Maccabi fans exhorted their heroes, Klinger and Driks led the team up to collect the State Cup from President Ezer Weizman through a sea of congratulating supporters that can now look forward to top class European competition next season in the Cup Winners' Cup.

A minute later, Driks ran to the byline and created a golden opportunity for Avi Nimni

with a well-timed low cross, but the young forward completely misused his shooting attempt.

Although the teams went into the tunnel at the break with the scoresheet even, Maccabi was clearly ahead on points. In the second half however, Maccabi translated its domination of the play into goals.

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## Bradman praises record-breaking 501 feat Lara seeks fresh targets

LONDON (Reuters) - A beach holiday and fresh scoring targets beckon Brian Lara, who astounded the sporting world on Monday with his world record 501 not out in the county championship for Warwickshire.

The 25-year-old Trinidadian joins Australian Sir Donald Bradman in the record books as the only man to hold both the highest individual test and first class scores simultaneously.

Sir Donald, the greatest batsman of all time, was among the many to pay tribute to the gifted Lara.

"Brian Lara is a wonderful aggressive player with the right attitude to the game of cricket," Sir Donald said from his Adelaide home. "My heartfelt congratulations go to him on his record-breaking feat."

A series of records fell to Lara as he stroked the hapless Durham bowlers to all parts of the ground, scoring more in one innings than the entire New Zealand team managed in both innings in the first Test against England.

Lara faced 427 balls, batted 474 minutes and hit 10 sixes and 62 fours.

Since scoring a world record 375 in the fifth Test against England in April, Lara has been dismissed in single figures just once, scoring six centuries in seven county innings.

Little seems beyond the compact left-hander, tipped by his illustrious West Indian predecessor Sir Garfield Sobers to become the best batsman in history.

"I'd like to get 400 runs in a Test match but these things are so far away," Lara said yesterday. "I'd just like to achieve a consistent test record and see what happens from then."

Lara plans to go home to Trinidad for a few days after Warwickshire's Benson and Hedges Cup semifinal against Surrey.



ON RECORD - Brian Lara raises his bat to acknowledge record-breaking 501 not out at Edgbaston on Monday. (Reuters)

"When I got home after the 375, it was total madness," Lara said. "I don't know what's going to happen this time. Hopefully I'll be able to spend time with my mum and get some sun and get back to business next week."

"I think I'll just spend some time going to the beach, going shopping or something like that."

One man watching Lara's progress with interest is South African fast bowler Allan Donald, replaced by Lara at Warwickshire this year because he is due to tour England with the national team.

"The West Indians are touring England next year and I don't think he's going to struggle to make the team," Donald said.

## Irish given rousing send-off

Hoteliers over-estimate World Cup visitors

DUBLIN (AP) - More than 7,000 fans blocked roads and squeezed into Dublin Airport to see off Ireland's World Cup team on Monday, while a huge crowd gathered as the Italian squad left Rome and arrived in New Jersey for the start of the tournament.

"It's a wonderful send-off, typical of the Irish fans," forward Tony Casciaro said Monday as he and his teammates went through crowds for their flight to Orlando, Florida.

Neither the players' spirits nor the fans' enthusiasm was dampened by Ireland's 3-1 loss to the Czech Republic in a friendly on Sunday.

"Don't read too much into that," coach Jack Charlton said. "This result does not matter. We'll have a go out in America and we'll be difficult to beat. We have a bit of a chance."

Ireland plays Italy at East Rutherford, N.J. in its first game on June 18.

At Rome, the Italian team - nicknamed the Azzurri - met on Monday with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi before their departure for their World Cup base in Somerset, N.J. Berlusconi also owns AC Milan, the European champion and three-time Italian League champion.

Berlusconi, whose *Forza Italia* (Let's Go, Italy) party took its name from the traditional cry of Italian soccer fans, gave team members commemorative silver medals and took them on a tour of his offices.

Then he bid them farewell with a tongue-in-cheek warning: "If you lose, I will cut up your passports and you will not be able to return home."

At Santa Clara, California, Brazil was trying to rebound from Sunday's 1-1 tie with Canada at Edmonton, Alberta.

"That wasn't our style of play,"



ONE-UP - Italy's international striker Giuseppe Signori sets his sights on World Cup victory. (Reuters)

coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said. "I confess I expected more from the players."

"Brazil has an obligation to beat Canada," forward Bebeto added. Meanwhile, hotel and tourism chiefs are complaining that World Cup soccer officials greatly overestimated the number of hotel rooms needed for the tournament this month.

Soccer officials held 250,000 room nights in Washington but have dropped the total to 30,000.

Hotel room nights in Dallas have dropped from 304,000 to 65,000. Les Tanaka, executive vice president of the Hotel Association of Greater Dallas, said.

Tanaka figures on \$23.9 million in lost revenue, based on an average of \$100 per night.

"We just wish that the World Cup would have been more realistic in their estimates of the number of room nights to be utilized," Tanaka said. "Obviously, they were overly optimistic."

## British bookies favor Rockets

LONDON (AP) - The Houston Rockets are the favorite with British bookmakers to win the NBA championship.

The Rockets are an 8-15 shot to defeat the New York Knicks in the best-of-seven series starting tonight, according to bookmaker Ladbrokes. The Knicks can be backed at 11-8.

"We rated the Knicks as 11-10 favorites before the conference finals, but after the contrasting conference performances, and the Rockets' rest period, we have to make Houston favorites for the final," a spokesman said.

Game 1 will be broadcast live at 4:00 tomorrow morning on Cable TV's Sports Channel 5. Repeats are scheduled for 7:00 and 18:15.

## Williams, Key pace Yankee rout

ARLINGTON (AP) - Bernie Williams homered twice and drove in seven runs and Jimmy Key won his seventh straight decision Monday night as the New York Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 17-7.

New York took a 10-0 lead in the fourth after a two-run homer by Williams and a three-run shot by Wade Boggs. Williams had an RBI single in the eighth and hit a grand slam in the ninth.

Key (8-1) left after the sixth inning ahead 10-6. He tied Kansas City's David Cone and Ben Mondak of Baltimore for the AL lead with eight wins. Atlanta's Greg Maddux leads the majors with nine.

New York scored its first seven runs off Roger Pavlik (1-3). Tigers 11, Red Sox 5

Phillips, who had the first two home runs of his career Sunday, tied in the fourth inning for a 4-2 lead. Alan Trammell homered and drove in

three runs as the Tigers improved to 27-27, the first time they've been at .500 this season.

Mariners 5, Indians 4  
Felix Fermin's sacrifice fly scored Eric Anthony to break an eighth-inning tie as host Seattle snapped Cleveland's eight-game winning streak.

Anthony led off the inning with a double off losing pitcher Derek Lilliquist (1-1). After Jose Mesa replaced Lilliquist, Anthony went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Mike Blowers, and crossed the plate on Fermin's fly to center, making a winner of reliever Bill Rife (4-2).

Ken Griffey Jr. slammed his 23rd home run of the season, a solo shot off Cleveland starter Jason Grimesley.

NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Giants 4, Pirates 3  
Bill Swift pitched eight effective innings to win for the first time since coming off the disabled list and John Patterson's pinch single keyed a three-run ninth, giving San Francisco a road victory.

Swift (7-3) won his fourth straight decision by limiting the Pirates to three hits, including Al Martin's solo homer. He recently spent three weeks on the disabled list with right shoulder inflammation.

Swift has allowed the Pirates only one run in 15 innings this season and is

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:  
San Francisco 4, Pittsburgh 3  
Philadelphia 3, Chicago 1  
San Diego 4, Atlanta 3  
Montreal 10, Boston 5  
Florida 11, Los Angeles 10  
New York 17, Colorado 3  
Only games scheduled

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:  
Detroit 11, Boston 5  
Baltimore 4, Kansas City 2  
New York 17, Texas 7  
Seattle 5, Cleveland 4  
Minnesota 8, California 2  
Milwaukee 9, Oakland 6  
Only games scheduled

## AL to elect pres, debate salary cap

NEW YORK (AP) - Baseball owners have set themselves the task of electing a new American League president and debating a salary cap proposal at a meeting in Cincinnati that started last night.

Gene Budig, the chancellor of the University of Kansas, is the choice to replace Dr. Bobby Brown as AL president but won't take over until later this summer. The vote is to take place today.

Richard Ravitch, management's negotiator, is seeking permission to make a salary cap proposal to the Major League Baseball Players Association, which is considering whether to strike during the second half of the season.

Players are expected to set a strike date at a meeting one day before the All-Star game. The walkout could occur on August 1.

## Mac Willy wins tennis crown

HEATHER CHAIT

MACCABI Willy Tel Aviv won the National League tennis championships on Monday by defeating league-leaders Carmel Haifa 3-1 in Haifa.

Ten teams competed in this year's national league.

Playing for Willy Tel Aviv, named after former national team coach Willy Davidman, were Ofir Sela, Oren Motzav and Raviv Weidenfeld with Haifa represented by Lior Mor, Shahar Perkis and Lior Raphaeli.

## England beats Provincial side

PORT ELIZABETH (AP) - A mostly second-string English side showed superior speed and skills yesterday in defeating Eastern Province 31-13 in the final exhibition match of England's tour of South Africa.

The victory gave England a chance to finish the eight-match tour at 4-4 if it wins the second test on Saturday in Cape Town. England trounced South Africa 32-15 in the first test after dropping four of the first five tour matches against provincial sides and a South African A squad.

Rough play caused several injuries and a few

fighters, with England's Tim Rodber and Eastern Province's Simon Tremain sent off in the first half after a skirmish.

England led 13-10 at halftime on a try by scrumhalf Steve Bates. Mike Catt's conversion and two Jonathan Callard penalties. Fullback Andries Fourie scored a try for Eastern Province with flyhalf Bertus Kruger kicking the conversion and a penalty.

England last toured South Africa in 1984, prior to the eight-year ban from international rugby imposed against South Africa because of apartheid.

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# Ashdod ship's container yields 3 tons of hashish

RAINE MARCUS

TEL Aviv narcotics squad detectives have seized three tons of hashish, the largest amount ever to be smuggled into Israel, but following a month's surveillance of a container at Ashdod port, nobody came to collect the goods.

Following a tip from abroad, detectives were watching for a ship due to arrive from abroad containing the top quality Indian "charas" hashish.

Detectives headed by Commander Dudi Cohen and Chief Superintendent Menahem Frank traced the container to the Zim Tokyo ship arriving from the Far East, and when it arrived at Ashdod port, sent surveillance squads to wait for its owners.

The soles of hashish, valued at around NIS 30 million, had been packed inside cartons containing thermos flasks.

The container was listed under a false company name and addressed to a nonexistent address in Tel Aviv.

Detectives waited and waited but no one came to claim the container. Police theorized that the gang had been tipped off that the goods were being watched.

Police described the gang as "highly organized and professional," comprised of "very wealthy people able to finance such an operation."

The hashish was intended for distribution nationwide and users will now face a drought, said Frank.

Police also believe the gang has representatives abroad responsible for purchasing specific amounts ordered by members here.

Port employees also apparently cooperated with the gang. Since the beginning of the year, Tel Aviv's narcotics squad has seized 2.5 kg. of heroin, 13.7 kg. of cocaine and 5.6 kg. of marijuana.

Some 25 smugglers and dealers were arrested.



Tel Aviv detectives pose yesterday with part of a three-ton haul of Indian hashish seized in Ashdod, after the drug was smuggled inside a container on the Zim Tokyo.

## Skoda importer suspected of evading taxes

RAINE MARCUS

THE importer of Skoda cars, suspected of massive customs and VAT payments fraud running into the millions of shekels, was yesterday released on NIS 350,000 bail by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

Importer Shlomo Shmeltzer, 47, and his bookkeeper, Mali Cohen, 44, were arrested Monday by Customs and VAT investigators. Cohen, who was in charge of preparing VAT payments, was released on NIS 30,000 bail. Shmeltzer is also the owner of the Shlomo and Shilo car rental companies.

Investigators told the court they have evidence that from 1989 to

1990 Shmeltzer sold 72 vehicles from his car rental company to two clients, but instead of listing the full sale amount on invoices, took cash for part of the sale to evade VAT payments.

During 1991, said investigator Rafi Gabai, Shmeltzer evaded VAT payments totaling nearly NIS 8.5 million. In 1990, said Gabai, the suspect illegally postponed more than NIS 3 million in VAT payments for six months.

For three years Cohen allegedly submitted false declarations to

VAT authorities to evade VAT payments amounting to NIS 705,000. She is also suspected of not issuing invoices for car sales when clients did not request them. Cohen herself allegedly bought a vehicle in this manner to avoid paying VAT.

Shmeltzer denied all allegations, saying the irregularities arose from "human error, and not criminal intent." But he admitted his companies have not presented correct balance sheets to income tax authorities since 1991.

Under questioning Cohen admitted canceling invoices, but denied doing so with criminal intent.

The alleged offenses surfaced when Shmeltzer decided to list his companies on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and submitted his books to an accountant for examination.

Investigators also suspect that Shmeltzer artificially inflated expenses by NIS 13,300,00 from his car import company, Skocar. Last month he told VAT there was a mistake in his declarations and asked to pay monies owed. He paid NIS 3.7 million.

## Galilee police nab two with hashish and heroin

DAVID RUDGE

GALILEE district police yesterday arrested two suspected drug dealers and seized a large quantity of hashish and heroin worth hundreds of thousands of dollars on the streets.

The large-scale operation, involving members of the special Lebanese border unit and plainclothes officers, was the culmination of weeks of investigations.

The suspects were arrested in their car near Saknin, in the Beit Netufa region of the Galilee.

The spokeswoman for the Gali-

lee district said police searched the car and discovered two sacks containing 50 kg. of hashish and a nylon bag containing a kilo of heroin.

She said the suspects, both in their fifties from a village in Western Galilee, were known to the police. One of them had only recently been released from prison.

The spokeswoman said no further details were being released because inquiries into the incident were continuing and more arrests were expected.

## Sharon police hold 12 suspects for selling arms in territories

RAINE MARCUS

SHARON police together with the GSS have arrested a gang of suspected arms dealers from the Triangle area, who allegedly traded weapons to Arabs living in the territories.

Twelve suspects have been arrested so far, six of them Israeli Arabs from Kalansuwa and Tira, five Samaria residents and one from the Gaza Strip, but police stressed that more arrests are im-

minent.

The suspects have admitted buying stolen pistols and assault rifles from criminals and ammunition from a Netanya shooting range, police said yesterday. Some weapons were sold to two wanted terrorists from Nabulus, suspected of carrying out attacks on Israelis, and to one Popular Front faction member who was killed in a clash with IDF forces in March.

## Aloni: Weakening Labor will ruin peace process

SARAH HONIG

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni (Meretz) declared yesterday that the Labor Party was disintegrating, warning this could result in "irreparable damage to the peace process."

The failure of the peace process, Aloni predicted, would trigger a new war in the Middle East in which Egypt would join the forces battling Israel.

Aloni's comments to Israel Radio followed an attack she launched on the Labor Party's hawks and their newly-formed Third Way circle.

She referred to them as "irrelevant anachronisms who are caus-

ing all Labor systems to malfunction."

"They can cause the whole peace process to crumble," Aloni said during the interview. "If that happens things will not go back to the merry way they were during and before the intifada, but may well lead to an all-out war with all the Arab states lined up against a new government in Israel. In that case Egypt will join actively in battle against Israel, as it is the leader of the Arab League."

Aloni also complained that "everyone in Labor is hitting out at everyone else and every Labor MK absolutely has to become a minister." What she called "Labor's disaster" began "with Labor's struggle against the health bill, which it is now eager to speedily pass in the form it had so forcefully rejected not long ago."

Her comments yesterday mark the end of the period of silence Aloni imposed on herself since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin removed her from the Education Ministry for her volubility.

Aloni's statements exasperated many in Meretz.

Her chief rival in the party, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said "Labor is not falling apart."

Aloni's onslaught offended both the doves and hawks in Labor. Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli, one of Labor's prominent doves, argued that "it is unthinkable for a coalition partner to attack the chief component of the coalition in this manner. True, Labor had taken a beating in the Histadrut elections, but it is by no means breaking apart."

"It is recovering rather than disintegrating," he said.

## Porat: I helped Labor group

SARAH HONIG

NATIONAL Religious Party MK Hanan Porat caused a stir in the Labor Party yesterday when he admitted to helping the new hawkish Third Way circle obtain funding.

Porat's statement on Israel Radio was denied by his Third Way contacts, but the Labor Party was outraged and called for the matter to be discussed at tomorrow's political bureau session.

Porat said he "was in contact with some of those who initiated the founding of the Third Way, especially Yehuda Harel of the Golan Heights. He told me of plans to revive the activist circles in the party, along with the ideology of the late Yigal Alon. I encouraged him and helped set up a meeting for him with potential donors."

He clarified that he did "not support the territorial compromise notions advocated by the Alon Plan," but said he was glad the activist forces in Labor were re-

awakening. "We can find a common denominator with them on specific issues and we would be glad if they would prevent the Rabin government from making more disastrous concessions - this time on the Golan, in the Jordan Valley and in Jerusalem."

Harel, however, insisted that in the past few months he had no discussions with Porat, "apart from a brief meeting in the Knesset in which I said it was vital that we correct the Labor Party's course and return it to its original activist path. That's all there was to it. He did not get us \$100,000, nor \$100, nor one cent."

But Israel Radio insisted that Porat brought the group a \$100,000 check from the US recently, and that in fact he is one of the founders of the Third Way.

Labor doves, meanwhile, said they would raise the matter in the party forums, arguing that the Third Way is a rightist Trojan horse in Labor.

## Tsiddon wants to rejoin Tsomet

SARAH HONIG

FORMER Tsomet MK Yoash Tsiddon said yesterday he is ready to return to full activity in Tsomet, but Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan is not sure his return will be approved.

The two parted ways bitterly on the eve of the 1992 elections, when Tsiddon lost his second slot on the party slate of Knesset candidates and accused Eitan of having booted him out in favor of newcomer Gonen Seggev, who has since left Tsomet to form the Yit'ud Knesset faction, along with two other Tsomet MKs.

Tsiddon said yesterday he has no ambitions to further a political career but considers it imperative

to do "everything possible to replace this disastrous government." He said he remains critical of Eitan but thinks Tsomet can be turned into a more pluralistic party. "I am not returning to follow a particular man but am returning to a party which I think can be rehabilitated," he explained.

At this point, Tsiddon can no longer be co-opted to the central committee.

Eitan said that before Tsiddon returns the "party forums must consider his case and decide on whether we want him back at all. We have to see what he can contribute."

## Furor over Harish adviser

EVELYN GORDON

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish should immediately terminate the employment of his advisor Shmuel Frenkel, unless a Civil Service committee on conflicts of interests changes its mind, several members of the Knesset state control committee demanded yesterday.

Frenkel, a member of the Labor Party's central committee and the head of the Epsilon investment consulting company, was hired by Harish as a special consultant, primarily on marketing questions.

However, the Civil Service Commission said the appointment created a conflict of interest because Frenkel would be privy to all kinds of inside information which could guide his company's investments. The commission said it might reconsider its ruling if Frenkel could convince it otherwise, but so far, Frenkel has refused to appear before the committee.

When State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat raised the issue in her recent report, Harish's response was that he would try to reformulate Frenkel's job description to eliminate the conflict of interest.

"I doubt it will be possible to reformulate [the job description] in such a manner," Ben-Porat told the committee yesterday, noting that according to an opinion issued by the attorney-general's office, the very fact of Frenkel's access to ministry plans gave him an unfair advantage in his investment business.

"It's very grave that [Harish] continued to employ him once [the committee] had made its decision," she continued. "Until [Frenkel] appears before the committee, we need to act according to the committee's decision [to date] - because there are rules in the country, and these rules apply even to ministers."

Harish, however, vigorously defended his decision.

"This man has outstanding qualifications," he said. "He is one of the leading experts on marketing. No one is criticizing his performance, and the question of a conflict of interest hasn't really been checked."

"The comptroller ruled... without investigating the matter. I doubt such a method of making rulings would be accepted in any judicial proceeding."

Harish charged that there were hundreds of government appointments which represent greater conflicts of interest - such as the membership of senior bankers on the Bank of Israel's advisory committee - but which, for some reason, aren't investigated.

"It's impossible to run an economy that isn't Bolshevik without the participation of the private sector," he added, noting that government consults with business on numerous matters. "According to the definition I'm hearing here, everything falls under the suspicion of conflict of interest."

## Magen suspicious, asks Ben-Porat to probe funding to Arab localities

EVELYN GORDON

CHAIRMAN of the Knesset state control committee David Magen (Likud) yesterday asked the state comptroller to investigate alleged bribery by Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer in the elections for the Union of Local Authorities.

"According to press reports, Ben-Eliezer promised funding to Arab villages in exchange for their supporting the Labor Party's candidate for chairman of the union, Adi Eldar."

Ben-Eliezer denied the charges, saying the extra money he gave these villages was part of the government's stated policy of closing the funding gap between Jewish and Arab municipalities. In each case, the funding was necessary to meet the authorities' real needs, he said.

Furthermore, he added, the extra funds were given to only three local authorities, whereas dozens of Arab villages participated in the elections.

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said she also approved of equalizing the budgets of Jewish and Arab municipalities, but stressed that it still had to be done properly, according to clear criteria.

## Train kills woman

YIGAL KOTZER

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Hagit Dadosh of Netanya, an Antiquities Authority worker, was killed yesterday when she was struck by a train while working alongside the railroad tracks near Beit Hananya.

Dadosh was hit by the Haifa-Tel Aviv train at 8 a.m. as she walked along the track. She had been working on an archeological dig adjoining the tracks.

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